Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Falling numbers due to poor weather blamed for move

PLUG PULLED ON SANDWELL SHOW

Report by Heather Large

THE plug has been pulled on the Sandwell Show, after 36 years, council bosses have announced.

It comes hot on the heels of the announcement that the City Show in Wolverhampton was axed.

Falling visitor numbers due to bad weather has been partly blamed for shelving the free event, which attracted more than 100,000 people at its height.

Sandwell Council said it also believed the two-day show held at Sandwell Valley over the August bank holiday weekend had become 'outdated'. Bosses are planning to replace it with a month-long summer festival at the beauty spot in August, which they believe will appeal to more people.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and the environment, Councillor Maria Crompton said it was now looking for a firm to help stage the replacement event in August.

"We've been plagued by bad weather over the August bank holiday weekend for the past three years which has had an impact on the crowds.

Variety

"While we've had many great Sandwell Shows over the years it has become a bit outdated and needs a refresh. As a result we've decided to review the show and we are now looking for an outdoor events partner to join us putting on a summer festival of fun during the month of August which we hope will appeal to more people and provide greater variety for visitors," she added.

Smethwick councillor Richard Marshall said he agreed it was time to retire the show in its current format. "It's been the same for at least 20 years with nothing new added to it over the years. It's become tired and outdated," he added.

Lee Judge, of West Bromwich, who ran the popular Judgestock mini-music festival as part of the show in 2013, said: "It's a shame it's ending after so long – there's nothing else like it for people in Sandwell."

Last year thousands braved the damp weather to attend the event which featured stunt riders on quad bikes, heavy horse logging demonstrations and a live falconry display. In 2007 the Sandwell Show was downsized in order to safeguard rare breeds of farm animals from foot and mouth. While in 1997, the show was cancelled altogether due to council budget cuts before being brought back the following year. Firms interested in getting involved in the festival need to apply by June 3. More details are available from Sandwell Park Farm Visitor Centre on 0121 569 3070.

CHRIS ON THE ROAD TO ARTISTIC PRAISE AT MUSEUM

West Bromwich artist Chris Holloway shows his work called 'A transport of delight' at the Museum of Cannock Chase

AN artist from West Bromwich has used his formative childhood experiences to put together an exhibition on the history of transport across the region.

Chris Holloway, currently has his 'Transport of Delight' exhibition on display at the Museum of Cannock Chase, in Hednesford, near Cannock, containing 36 oil paintings of the trains, cars and buses people used to get around in yesteryear. Chris, aged 69, grew up by the Greater Birmingham canal and used to catch four buses a day to get to and from school. He says this has formed the backbone of his exhibition, which runs until June 19. He said: "I have always been interested in older methods of transport.

"It goes back to when I was a youngster, I always found the variety of transport available to people fascinating. As time goes by the old cars, boats and buses become symbols of a different era. I used a lot of old black and white photographs as a base for my different pieces, copying them, adding bits here and there and then using colour to bring them to life."

The exhibition features oil paintings of passenger and freight transport from the early 19th century to the present day – mainly from the Midlands.

Whether of railways, canals, trolley buses, ocean liners and aircraft, each painting has a story to tell which is included in the exhibition.

Mr Holloway says the reaction from the general public has been 'excellent' so far.

He said: "I have had a lot of positive comments left in the visitors book, which is excellent for me.

For more information call 01543 877666

CELEBRITY

Arrow star is real hero at city event

A REAL-LIFE superhero came to the rescue when a fan was taken ill at a Birmingham hotel. Colton Haynes, who plays Roy Harper – aka Arsenal – in superhero series Arrow, rushed to help Louise Dempsey, aged 31, following a seizure.

Colton Haynes

The incident happened at the Hilton Metropole hotel at the NEC site during a comicbook convention on Sunday. Haynes, 27, put his arms around Louise to help her up and consoled her by telling her to not get upset and to remain calm.

Ms Dempsey, from Corby, said on social media: "Thank you so much for all of your help. I'm seriously considering having you added to my tattoos as a thank you."

EMPLOYMENT

Post Office jobs at risk, unions warn

MORE than 70 jobs are thought to be at risk at two Post Office handling centres in Birmingham.

The Communication Workers Union (CWU) and Unite have now called on the Post Office management to resign in protest at Government funding cuts to the service.

The job losses being broken to staff on Tuesday come on top of an expected loss of hundreds of others across the country.

DEVELOPMENT

Former landfill site to be housing estate

WORK is expected to start soon on building 200 homes on a former landfill site in West Bromwich after developers cleared the final hurdle.

Mar City Homes is creating the development on the former T&S Elements site off Hall Green Road and Needwood Grove in Stone Cross.

Members of Sandwell Council's planning committee, led by Councillor Steven Frear, gave the scheme the nod after casting their eyes over the final details of the development such as layout and housing design.

INSIDE

DAVE DOES A COUNTDOWN

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 444331
E-mail: c.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Jayne LaHiffe
Tel: 01543 465344
E-mail: jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990

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51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
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£50,000 ceiling on new mayor's salary

Lord Jones 'ambassadorial'

THE role of mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority will command a salary of no more than £50,000, it can be revealed.

The region is set to elect a mayor in May next year to run the new combined authority, WMCA, with powers over transport and infrastructure and control of a budget of hundreds of millions of pounds. It was expected to command a salary in excess of £100,000, but bosses have revealed that a lower figure has been agreed.

Speaking at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership annual conference, WMCA board monitoring officer Keith Ireland said the mayor's salary was expected to fall between '£40,000 and £50,000'.

The figure falls well short of newly elected Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's salary of £143,911. An elected mayor was stipulated as part of the deal for the WMCA that was announced by George Osborne last November, despite there being widespread opposition to the role across the region. Meanwhile Lord Digby Jones has called for party politics to be 'kept right out' of the WMCA, which comes into force on June 10.

He said: "Personally I would like to see an elected mayor that is not from a political party. I see the position as an ambassadorial role. I want to see the mayor kicking ass in London, or in Dubai persuading Tata Steel to put money into our region. Can you imagine us having an anti-capitalist mayor looking out for our business interests? There is no way that could be considered to be in the best interests of wealth creation in the West Midlands.

"Please let us not have someone who is tribal and allows themselves to get bogged down with local politics."

Indian tales saved are for future generations

TRADITIONAL Indian folk tales are being preserved for future generations through an innovative arts project.

Black Country Touring has been travelling around the region collecting stories, some of which have been unheard for more than 50 years, to ensure they are not lost forever.

The tales have been used to create a new show, which will tour Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Doncaster and London. The material will also be recorded in an online archive. The Tongue Tied & Twisted project has given the selection of the folk tales, legends and myths a theatrical twist thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £28,000.

Fifty people shared stories, which have been interpreted from their original language into English and brought together with a blend of urban hip hop and classical south Asian sounds by storyteller Peter Chand and music producer, Pavan Chand, from Wolverhampton, who is also known as PKC the first.

Wisdom

Dawinder Bansal, producer of the show, said: "The tradition of passing folk tales down through the generations is dying out and we knew it was important to capture this wisdom before it was too late. As the elders recalled the stories they were told as children their eyes twinkled, knowing their voices would live on for decades to come."

Mr Chand, who grew up in Wolverhampton using Punjabi as his first language, worked with groups around the Black Country, including Sandwell Asian Family Support Service, St Chads Asian Women's Group and Wolverhampton Elder Asian and Disabled Group. He said: "Storytelling is an immediate and exciting way to engage instantly with audiences. What I love about Tongue Tied & Twisted is that it is steeped in the past but very much grounded in the present."

The first performance will be at West Bromwich's Oak House Museum on May 26, at 7.15pm. The show will visit Thimblemill Library in Smethwick on June 4. Black Country Touring works with voluntary and professional promoters to create, choose and present the professional productions and events for local communities.

Some of the 50 people who turned up to share their stories as part of the innovative arts project

Satbhajan Singh Mann is interviewed by storyteller Peter Chand who was one of the organisers

Niru Parmar, left and Nina Sharma share stories during the event. Pictures: Dee

City venues to raise seat charges

THE cheapest ticket prices at two major venues in Birmingham are set to rise – as the upper seating blocks are closed off.

Bosses at the Town Hall and Symphony Hall have confirmed the upper circle and grand tier will not be open for the new season, which begins in September.

Visitors hoping to purchase the cheapest seats will be faced with rises of more than 30 per cent.

This could mean people using cheaper seats higher up have to fork out more cash for higher priced seats lower down.

Price changes will see ticket prices raised from £27.50 to £32, £33.50 to £42 and £38.50 to £50.

Visitors can achieve discounts on prices by booking at least three shows ahead of time.

All concertgoers will gave to pay £3 for commission for each tickets – instead of £2.50 for each transaction. The new season of concerts which starts in September to August 2017 has been rebranded as Birmingham Classical – a change from the previous title of the Birmingham International Concert Season. After five years on hold, the cheapest tickets are going up 31.5 per cent from £9.50 to £12.50. Top priced seats will be £50.

Nick Reed, the new chief executive of Performance Birmingham, said more than half of seats had fallen in price.

He said: "Top price tickets have not increased, though prices for some seats have increased."

Disruption due with works near roundabout

MOTORISTS face a chaotic couple of days as roads near a major roundabout in West Bromwich are overhauled.

Repairs to the road surface near the Swan roundabout on the Black Country New Road will see the roads shut for nearly 24 hours on-and-off from Saturday evening to early Monday morning.

Sandwell Highways have revealed the busy junction – near Bristol Street Motors and the town's Premier Inn – will be shut over the weekend for 'resurfacing' and 'road marking'.

Roads bosses have said the road will be closed from 6.30pm on Saturday until 4am on Sunday – before reopening for four hours then closing again from 8am to 12pm. Engineers will then be back on the scene from 6pm on Sunday until 4am on Monday.

UKIP Councillor Philip Garrett said there was no doubt the work would cause 'disruption'.

Councillor Garrett said: "They just need to make sure that it's done within the time. "The work just needs to be done as fast as practically possible."

A Sandwell Highways statement said: "In order to facilitate carriageway resurfacing work Swan Roundabout on the Black Country New Road will be closed on Saturday, from 6.30pm to 4am and on Sunday, from 8am to 12pm. The road will reclose on Sunday evening at 6pm to 4am for road marking works.

"Traffic will be diverted via...Black Country New Road, Old Meeting Street, Black Lake, Hill Top, New Street, Harvills Hawthorn, Bagnall Street, George Henry Road, Black Country New Road – and vice-versa.

"Access for emergency service access will be maintained unless it is unsafe to do so."

Digby, reluctant backer of Brexit

LORD Digby Jones says he plans to vote Brexit in the EU referendum as he heralded 'Asia's century' and branded the Euro bloc as 'something that was really good for another time'.

The former CBI boss says he made the decision to vote 'leave' with 'a heavy heart' but 'was left with no choice' due to the EU business model 'being completely busted'.

However Lord Jones, who was trade minister under Gordon Brown, said he believed Britain would vote to remain, a decision he says 'will solve absolutely nothing'.

Speaking at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership annual conference, Lord Jones said: "I will be voting to come out of the EU on June 23, but I will do so with a heavy heart. I'm not a Eurosceptic.

"The EU was something that was really good for another time, but the next 84 years belong to Asia. Quite how Europe deals with that will define the future for the Black Country."

He added: "The UK is a free-trading, open, globalised economy. Sadly, the EU is not."

Crackdown sees anglers reeled in by agency staff

A CRACKDOWN on illegal fishing saw 23 anglers who were flouting the law reeled in by Environment Agency officers. Agency staff were out in force across the West Midlands over the recent bank holiday weekend in a bid to catch anglers who were fishing without a rod licence.

Over the three-day weekend enforcement officers found 396 anglers fishing legally at locations across the region. Officers used their local knowledge to catch offenders and 23 were reported for fishing without a valid licence. For the minority of anglers who flout the rules, the most common offence is fishing without a valid licence. Fishing without a valid licence could land you with a fine of up to £2,500 and a criminal record.

Four anglers who were caught fishing without a licence were fined at Walsall magistrates court.

David Flores, from Erdington, was ordered to pay a £220 fine, £127 in costs and a £22 victim surcharge after being caught fishing at Foxhills Fishery on Pinfold Lane, Walsall, last September despite not having a licence.

Another Birmingham man, John Galloway, was caught on September 29, the same day as Flores, again at Foxhills Fishery and ordered to pay the same fine, costs and surcharge.

James Harrop, from West Bromwich, was caught without a licence at Moorcroft Wood Pool, Moxley, on October 9 and was ordered to pay a £147 fine, £127 in costs and a £20 victim surcharge. He wrote to the court to apologise, saying he 'had never fished before and never will again'. Walsall resident David Perry was fined £84, ordered to pay costs of £127 and a victim surcharge of £20 for exceeding the number of lines he was permitted to use at Sneyd Reservoir, Bloxwich.

To help the continuing crackdown on unlicenced fishing Environment Agency bosses have urged people to report illegal activity by calling them on 0800 80 70 60 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Gas jobs threat taskforce row

THE acting leader of Sandwell Council has written to Sajid Javid asking why a decision to form a government taskforce to look at potential job losses at British Gas's Oldbury site has apparently been 'watered down'.

Councillor Steve Eling penned the letter to the Business Secretary after Warley MP John Spellar expressed fears that the Government would play 'little more than a background role' in the taskforce.

David Cameron had previously said ministers would be deployed to assist the near-700 under threat workers at the firm's Swallowfield One offices.

Mr Eling wrote Sandwell Council had been in contact with Mr Javid's office 'to ascertain the planned response and offer our focused support'.

Mosquito ousted from role by panel

Yvonne Mosquito

DEPUTY Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito has lost her £65,000-a-year job after being 'disrespectful' and causing added 'grief' to the family of a teenager killed in a drive-by shooting.

A disciplinary panel ruled she committed 'serious misconduct' by making an unannounced visit to the home of 18-year-old Kenichi Phillips in Ladywood.

And Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said she did not get permission for the visit, it had broken a contact agreement between the police and the family and made the job of murder detectives more difficult.

Ms Mosquito, who denied allegations of misconduct, had said she went in a 'pastoral' capacity and not as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

Sources said she tried to recruit the family to join a peace march that was being organised in Birmingham following their son's murder.

The panel found Ms Mosquito had left her commissioner business card with the family and therefore went in an official capacity.

Mr Jamieson said Ms Mosquito has refused to apologise for causing upset to the family and interfering with the investigation: "The panel found that the actions of the Deputy Commissioner clearly interfered with operational policing. The panel found that, based on evidence submitted by both Kenichi Phillips' family and the force, the visit caused ongoing upset and distress to the family and, at the time, damaged the relationship between the family and West Midlands Police in the middle of a complex and sensitive murder investigation."

Ms Mosquito's contract as deputy commissioner expired last week and now Mr Jamieson is axing the post in favour of hiring two assistant commissioners.

Ms Mosquito's union Unite said will appeal the decision.

Former leader gets second suspension

THE former deputy leader of Sandwell Council has been suspended from the Labour Party – for a second time.

Mahboob Hussain was only reinstated to the party at the start of this month. His previous suspension was overturned after a police probe into land deals ended with no charges brought.

However, party bosses confirmed on Tuesday that Councillor Hussain had again been suspended by Labour.

A West Midlands Labour spokesman said: "Councillor Mahboob Hussain has been suspended from the Labour Party."

The news of his suspension emerged just days after Sandwell Council confirmed the long-delayed publication of a report into land sales at the authority had been pushed back even further.

The council had planned to publish the Wragge Report this week but has postponed that after a party named in the document sent a legal letter to the council.

Advice

The independent report was commissioned by former council leader Darren Cooper in April last year to look into the sale of six council-owned sites between 2011 and 2014.

Chief executive Jan Britton last week said the report would be published after the authority took Queen's Counsel advice.

Mr Britton subsequently wrote to councillors confirming the publication would be delayed by 'at least a few weeks' while the new legal challenge was dealt with.

His letter on Friday said: "As you are aware, it was the intention to publish the Wragge Report and legal opinion of the independent QC at some point in the week commencing May 16.

"The council has now received a pre-action protocol legal letter for a Judicial Review from solicitors acting on behalf of one of the parties named in the Wragge Report.

"I have taken further legal advice from the QC acting for the council and he advises that the publication must be delayed in order to deal with this legal challenge."

Councillor Hussain could not be contacted on Tuesday, while Sandwell Council chose to make no comment on his suspension.

Thieves target manufacturer

Lez Coupland with a drain pipe used to smash into a store room at Gilca in Oldbury

THIEVES broke into an Oldbury manufacturing firm's base and made off with computers and the company safe – totalling nearly £15,000.

Gilca's premises in Wolverhampton Road was targeted late on Saturday night. The firm's bosses believe a group of crooks broke in, cut the alarm system and phone lines, and escaped with eight computers and the company safe. Added to the damage caused the total bill could be between £12,000 and £15,000.

Company chiefs have urged members of the public who might have seen anything late on Saturday night or in the early hours of Sunday to get in touch with police.

The break-in was discovered on Sunday afternoon when accounts secretary Natalie Roberts drove past and saw a broken window. UK sales manager Lez Coupland said: "We need to be in touch with all our customers. But because of the damage they've done to the phones it's difficult.

"It's been impossible really because all of the phone lines have been down – so all the company calls have been coming into my mobile. You can't run an international business with just an iPhone."

Gilca supplies foam and rubber based products to make-up firms and also to Jaguar Land Rover.

NEWS IN BRIEF

M-way drivers suffer delays

DRIVERS faced delays on the M6 southbound between J10 Walsall and J9 Wednesbury after a car had broken down last Wednesday.

The incident happened around 1pm, with additional delays to J10A for the M54 link.

All lanes later reopened, but there was further congestion cause by roadworks further south between J8 and J7.

Lane three was closed by an accident within the same stretch and lane two was closed earlier in the day due to another breakdown.

Women urged to enter contest

NOMINATIONS are now open for the prestigious title of Business Woman of the Year ahead of a gala event in Birmingham. The Women of the Year Luncheon & Awards 2016 was officially launched with a reception.

The national competition celebrates businesswomen, culminating in an event at the Metropole Hilton Hotel, Birmingham on October 7. Last year's winner, Dr Sharon Redrobe, is an internationally-renowned zoologist.

For a nomination form, email info@womenoftheyear.org.uk, the closing date for entries is September 1.

Kingsman crew member in fall

A CREW member working on a blockbuster spy movie in Birmingham was rushed to hospital after falling 15ft onto a building.

Emergency crews were called to Victoria Square in the city around 8pm on Sunday after the man had fell onto Birmingham Council House.

He had been working on the upcoming film 'Kingsman: The Golden Circle', where car chases were being filmed around Birmingham streets last night.

Hats the way to do it at craft session

CHILDREN can make their own hats at a special craft session in Walsall next month.

The 'Right hat for the job' sessions take place on June 1 at the New Art Gallery, Gallery Square, Walsall, from 1pm-3pm.

The sessions are free to attend, with children encouraged to make a hat suitable for their future jobs.

For more information, visit: http://thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/ or call 01922 654400.

Western Front day

THE Wolverhampton branch of the Western Front Association is holding a conference at Molineux Stadium on July 16.

The First World War event will feature speakers on the Battle of the Somme, footballers' battalion and Wolverhampton's war contribution.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE NHS in crisis? 10.05am: phoned GP to fix routine appointment for blood test. 10.55am same morning: blood test carried out.

AFTER my item on pine martens chewing car electrical systems, a reader has been online and found an electronic gizmo which fits under the bonnet and is guaranteed to scare the little blighters off. Is there anything you can't buy on eBay?

AM I the only diesel-car driver feeling a little less guilty this week? There is something about half of Alberta going up in flames and filling the atmosphere with thousands of tons of smoke that puts our own emissions in context.

PAY attention. I am going to tell you some interesting facts about yourself. You have a tendency to be self-critical. You have a great need for other people to like and admire you. You pride yourself on being an independent thinker. You don't accept other people's statements without satisfactory proof. You have found it unwise to be too frank in revealing yourself to others. Spot on? Of course I am. All the above statements apply to you, because they apply to everyone. They are known as Barnum statements, after the great American showman and master of hoaxes, P T Barnum. And they are the bedrock of every "psychic"act you'll ever see, from seances to fortune-telling and the predictions of the late, great astrologer Jonathan Cainer.

IT is a tragedy that Cainer, 58, died so young, apparently of a heart attack. His passing earlier this month has unleashed a torrent of testimonies to the alleged accuracy of his star-gazing. For a start, it is widely claimed that he predicted his own death. But he didn't. His last column before he died simply read: "We're not here for long. So make the most of every moment." That's a Barnum statement.

DAVID Cameron says if we leave the EU we risk war because terrible things happen whenever Britain turns its back on Europe. Really? We must be working from different history books. I seem to recall from O-level history that it was the 1839 Treaty of London and the 1904 Entente Cordiale that committed Britain to entering the First World War instead of watching from the sidelines. You could argue that the worst conflict this country has ever endured was the direct result not of turning our back on Europe but of getting too involved with it.

MY personal foreign policy can be summed up in four words. Make friends with Russia.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Future of council care home in balance

THE last council-owned residential care home in Sandwell could be shut down, after council bosses revealed they will consult on its future.

Sandwell Council chiefs were set to launch a 12-week consultation on the future of Fountain Court in Bearwood starting this week. The home cares for 16 older people with dementia.

Cabinet member for health Councillor Yvonne Davies said the authority 'wanted to hear people's views' on what they think of the Millpool Way home. A review into the care home's value for money from autumn last year concluded that the service 'can be provided more cost effectively'.

Cabinet member for health, Councillor Yvonne Davies, said: "At this stage, no decisions have been taken.

"Our adult social care budget is under rapidly increasing pressure, and we want to hear people's views on all the options for Fountain Court before making a decision."

A report states: "Fountain Court in Bearwood supports 16 older people with dementia, and is the only remaining council owned residential care home in Sandwell.

"In Autumn 2015 Fountain Court was included in an Adult Social Care review of its directly provided services to consider and evaluate if these services are being delivered in the most appropriate way and to improve value for money.

"Following the review it is proposed that alternative options for the future delivery of the residential service at Fountain Court are considered and that this proposal forms the basis for consultation."

Drivers face fines as CCTV to be installed

Report by David Callaghan

DRIVERS could face fines of up to £90 as council chiefs are set to rubber-stamp plans to enforce CCTV in a busy West Bromwich street.

Traffic restrictions through the pedestrian town square on part of New Street have continued to be ignored by large numbers of motorists.

More than 3,000 vehicles are being driven through New Street, past Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus each day.

Now the council is looking to enforce CCTV on the street and fine those who go against the regulations.

A charge of £60 will be imposed, which will be reduced to £30 if paid within 14 days but increased to £90 if not paid within 28 days.

Two cameras will be fixed in place at either end of the road section, costing around £34,000.

Costs of ongoing maintenance and software for up to five years will be around £6,000, but the council expects additional costs of £5,000 per year subject to processing the number of penalties.

In March it was reported cameras will be installed, but private hire taxi drivers hit out at the move, saying it causes discrimination between cab drivers, as only Hackney Carriages will still be allowed to use the lane.

Cabinet member for highways and environment councillor Maria Crompton has backed the move and believes the street will benefit from the lack of congestion.

She said: "This isn't about fining people, this is about the safety of pedestrians using the road and to put a stop to thousands of drivers ignoring the signage every day.

"This scheme will see the numbers cut from around 3,000 vehicles driving through New Street every day to a few hundred, which will make a huge difference to the traffic in the area." The report was due to be discussed at last night's cabinet meeting.

Euro-rebel Chris leads Brexit battle

Former Dudley Conservative MP Chris Kelly with the huge poster near Junction 1 of the M5 motorway

A FORMER Black Country MP who defied David Cameron by rebelling in a Commons vote over EU powers has now unveiled a giant 'Vote Leave' poster at a motorway junction.

Chris Kelly, who represented Dudley South for the Tories between 2010 and 2015, has put the huge anti-Europe banner up at Junction 1 of the M5 motorway in West Bromwich.

The 37-year-old slammed the Prime Minister's 'failed renegotiation' and accused the Government of using a 'campaign of subterfuge' to conceal the true picture of Britain's future should the 'remain' camp prevail.

Mr Kelly quit at last year's general election to return to his family's multi-million pound business, Keltruck.

A passionate Eurosceptic, Mr Kelly regularly voted for an EU referendum during his time in the Commons and once defied the party whip by voting against ceding greater powers to Europe.

He said Britain should 'seize the opportunity' and vote to leave the 'undemocratic European Union.'

"If we vote leave next month, we can take back control of our courts and deport dangerous criminals who are currently protected by EU law," he added.

"As a Conservative MP I used to work with David Cameron and his team in Parliament, but I have since been left deeply disappointed by his failed renegotiation which has not, and will not, change our relationship with the EU."

Robber was foiled after attempted theft of bag

A QUICK-thinking firefighter who foiled the escape of a robber – and reduced the thug to tears – was praised by a judge.

Andrew Shakespeare from Smethwick fire station was passing in his car when he saw Kevin Bishop fleeing by bike after snatching the bag of Rebecca Evans in Beacon View Road, West Bromwich. The off-duty firefighter cut in front of the 33-year-old forcing him to fall off the bike, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

As Bishop got to his feet he was thrown to the ground by Mr Shakespeare who had rushed from his vehicle and pinned the robber down by kneeling on him as others joined in, continued Mr Oliver Woolhouse, prosecuting. Among those who dashed to the scene as Bishop was held until police arrived was the mother of Miss Evans who gave him a verbal lashing.

The robber, who was now in tears, apologised to the 35-year-old victim when led away. Her bag – which was recovered – had been grabbed from her shoulder as he cycled past while she walked to Tamebridge Parkway train station at 8.50am on December 2.

Father of two Bishop, a drug addict from George Road, Erdington, pleaded guilty to robbery and was given an 18 month jail term suspended for two years with 150 hours unpaid work.

Recorder Ciaran Rankin said: "You were detained because of the very fast actions of a bystander. You then apologised to the victim which leads me to believe you are genuinely sorry."

Record-breaking month at airport

PASSENGER numbers through Birmingham Airport were at a record level again in April.

It was the 14th consecutive month of record-breaking growth. In total, 872,833 passengers were handled at the airport – up by 13.2 per cent compared to the same month last year.

Long-haul routes experienced the greatest rise in demand, with 41.2 per cent passenger growth on April 2015, while short-haul routes saw a 9.7 per cent growth rate year-on-year.

Paul Kehoe, chief executive at Birmingham Airport, said: "April was a very significant month seeing us announce two new direct scheduled services to China with Beijing Capital Airlines. We also welcomed the arrival of Czech Airlines to Birmingham Airport."

Conference goes into battle at Molineux

THE Wolverhampton branch of the Western Front Association is holding a conference at Molineux Stadium on July 16. The First World War event will feature speakers on the Battle of the Somme, footballers' battalion and Wolverhampton's war contribution.

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Academies climbdown welcomed by schools

THE Government's climbdown over plans to force all schools to become academies has been welcomed in the Black Country with leaders saying each school should be free to choose.

The U-turn by Education Secretary Nicky Morgan came after a backlash by unions, Tory MPs and councils to the proposal to take schools out of local authority control by 2022. The Government announced the initial plans in its budget to force around 17,000 mainstream schools in England to be taken out of the control of local education authorities.

Andrew Burns, principal of Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath, praised the move saying each school should be free to choose – despite being part of an academy trust themselves. He said: "I am pleased that they have used common sense and that systemic solutions will be at the forefront."Each school should be free to choose what they wish to do and what feels proper for them and their learning choices."

In January 2012, the school became an academy sponsored by Ormiston Academies Trust.

Mr Burns added: "We are part of an academy trust ourselves and we feel that works well for us." Two-thirds of secondary schools have already converted but 15,000 schools do not currently have academy status.

Academies are independently run – but state-funded – schools, overseen by a not-for-profit business, known as an academy trust and they are often part of a chain."

Range to open new town store

DEPARTMENT store The Range is opening a brand new superstore in West Bromwich this summer. It will be located at Holyhead Road and it is planned to open its doors on Friday July 15.

The Range is recognised for offering a fantastic range of products across 16 departments including DIY, arts and crafts, furniture and homewares, all at affordable prices, and a cafe.

Around 80 part-time and full-time jobs will be created from store and department managers to warehouse workers and administrators.

Owner Chris Dawson said: "Opening a new store is always an exciting moment for the company and West Brom is no exception. It is essential that we have the right employees."

Glastonbury spot for bluesy Joanne

WEDNESBURY-BORN blues star Joanne Shaw Taylor is to play at this summer's Glastonbury Festival.

She will appear on the Avalon stage on Sunday, June 26 – the final day of the music and arts festival.

Squadron gets royal seal of approval

The princess. Picture: Mark Larner

MEMBERS of an Army Reserve squadron from Dudley received the royal seal of approval at Buckingham Palace.

The Royal Yeomanry were formally presented with their cavalry standard and colours, known as a guidon, by their Royal Honorary Colonel – Princess Alexandra.

Warrant officer Jonathan Astley attended and called it 'absolutely amazing'. "I think the beauty of the Army Reserve is that the experiences you get are so varied," he said. "It can be marching down the street, training in some far flung place while a lot of the guys have done active service. It is one of those things that the more you put in the more you get out.

"I've been involved since 1989 and have just been lucky to hang in there, stay useful and give something back."

On Saturday May 7, The Royal Yeomanry were presented their new regimental guidon at Buckingham Palace.

This replaces the individual Squadron Guidons with a single regimental version and includes the Battle Honour Iraq 2003, which they earned as the only formed Reserve Unit to serve in theatre at that time. Also included are battle honours from the Boer War, the First World War and Second World War where the regiment's forebears fought with distinction.

The Royal Yeomanry is made up of squadrons based in Nottingham, Dudley, Croydon, Telford, Leicester, Fulham and the Royal Yeomanry Band based in London. Major Adam Tyler, the officer commanding the Royal Yeomanry B Squadron, said: "This was a unique honour for our regiment and I am really proud of all the soldiers from B Squadron."

Jail for unlicensed driver who hit policeman in car

AN UNLICENSED driver hit a police officer a glancing blow while speeding away from a garage forecourt, a judge was told.

Dylan Coffin panicked after recognising Pc Aaron Pugh who was climbing from an unmarked car that had deliberately tried to block him in at Sainsbury's supermarket fuel station in Blackheath.

The 22-year-old prolific offender accelerated from the petrol pump where a friend was filling up the Seat which police had been hunting for several days after it failed to stop when requested, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The car hit the open driver's door and left Pc Pugh with a back injury that kept him off work for eight weeks, revealed Mr Nicholas Smith, prosecuting.

The injured officer had dealt with him in relation to another matter just days earlier and Coffin was heard to shout 'It's Pugh' before making the rapid exit.

The Seat Leon was first spotted in Long Lane, Blackheath and seen again minutes later on the garage forecourt of Sainsbury's in nearby Halesowen Street on June 28 last year

Shocked

Mr Smith explained: "The defendant, who was behind the wheel, recognised Pc Pugh and drove off leaving the other man looking quite shocked with a petrol pump nozzle in his hand. The Seat struck the officer a glancing blow while hitting the open driver's door through which Pc Pugh was leaving the vehicle."

The incident caused a pre existing problem to flare up in a disc in the victim's back necessitating eight weeks off work. Coffin insisted that he had not intended to hurt the man.

The defendant was driving a VW Passat when finally arrested after a high speed chase through Tipton and Oldbury during which he drove through red traffic lights on July 3. He has been dealt with separately for that offence.

Mr Tim Talbot-Webb, defending, said: "He is a man who likes cars even though he doesn't have a proper licence."

Coffin, of no fixed address, who had 15 previous convictions involving 27 separate offences, pleaded guilty to assaulting Pc Pugh, driving dangerously in Sainsbury's car park and damaging the driver's door of an unmarked police car. He was jailed for 15 months and banned from driving for a year by Recorder Ciaran Rankin.

Dave's on his marks for big run

Blind Dave Heeley, with The Big Pet Store owner Mike Burke, event director Alan Bowler and dog Seamus

ORGANISERS of the annual Black Country Run hope that the event will continue to grow – after raising more than £75,000 in four years.

This year's run is on July 3 and has enjoyed some high profile support, including from Blind Dave Heeley. who is a regular participant. Entrants to the day's action, which is competed on the roads of Halesowen, have increased each year. They have ranged from just 400 in 2012 to more than 1,100 last year. A 5km fun run and a 10km road race are available.

This year the event has been supported by three major sponsors, 'The Big Pet Store' in Halesowen, 'CSCM' in Stourbridge and Halesowen-based 'mFortune'.

"We're grateful to our sponsors as we wouldn't be able to host without them," organiser Alan Bowler said. "The support of Blind Dave is very much appreciated. Last year he came dressed as Shrek with his two fellow runners – this year they're considering the three blind mice."

The affiliated 10km race begins at 9am, with the 5km fun run beginning at 11.30am. Dudley council ensure all of the roads are closed for the event so none of the action has to head off-road – as per other road races.

To register, log-on to www.theblackcountryroadrun.com/home.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Only rich fans left for Ritchie

ROCK fans could be forced to fork out as much as £1,650 per ticket to see rock guitarist Ritchie Blackmore perform in Birmingham.

Tickets for the Genting Arena show on June 25 have now sold out, as it is the star's only UK date on his upcoming Rainbow tour. It is costing between £132 and £1,650 per ticket on ticket resale site getmein.com. The original tickets cost just £51.33 from the Genting Arena (or Ticket Factory) site. The show will see Ritchie celebrate the era-defining music of Rainbow and Deep Purple.

MP at reception to focus on cancers

WARLEY MP John Spellar attended an event organised by a coalition of cancer charities.

Mr Spellar was invited to the reception hosted by Cancer52, a coalition of more than 80 charities representing rare and less common cancers.

The purpose of the reception was to raise awareness of these cancers and highlight the need for earlier diagnosis. Mr Spellar said: "It is staggering that these cancers make up 54 per cent of cancer deaths and this number is rising. It is essential that we do more to raise awareness."

Car sales firm to close down

A CAR sales firm which is being axed by banking giant Lloyds, with the expected loss of 45 jobs, will close for the final time tomorrow.

Lloyds confirmed last month that Lex Autolease Car Select in Churchbridge, Oldbury, was to close, leaving the vast majority of staff facing redundancy. The site's final day of trading will be on May 20. Only five of the 50-strong workforce are set to be taken on by British Car Auctions (BCA).

Crews save fire-hit portable building

A BLAZE ripped through a portable building in Tipton which was saved from complete destruction by the swift actions of firefighters.

West Midlands Fire Service were alerted to the fire at Sheepwash Lane, Great Bridge, at 1.41am on Saturday.

A crew from Tipton arrived within six minutes and used a hose reel to extinguish the flames.

A fire service controller said the entire structure was affected. The crew from Tipton left the scene at 2.40am.

Plea over relatives

CORONERS in the Black Country are looking to trace the family members of a man who has recently died.

Donald Morris, aged 79, died on April 24 this year at an address on Cotterills Road, Tipton. Relatives of Mr Morris are urged to contact Bonita Poole on 0121 569 7203.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Trams are 20s answer to a 90s problem

DAVID Cameron has caused a diplomatic stir for saying Nigeria and Afghanistan are "fantastically corrupt."

I'm sure he's right. But remind me, how many millions of taxpayers' money does the UK give to these countries? One set of figures suggests an eye-watering £280 million a year, which seems rather foolish when the Government seems to have little control over where it is going. Fantastically foolish, in fact.

❒❒❒

ABOUT 76,000 fans had to be evacuated from Old Trafford on Sunday after a suspected bomb device was found in a toilet.

Thankfully, there was no explosive and the suspicious package turned out to be nothing more than a training device.

Still, some of the fans are furious at the incompetence, and who can blame them? For the Bournemouth supporters, it meant a wasted trip from the south coast. And for United fans, it meant another journey from the Home Counties.

❒❒❒

IT looks like Dudley will be retaining its status as Britain's largest town or city without a rail link after the council dropped plans for a light shuttle service from Dudley Port station. A shame they couldn't tell us before the local elections, but there you go.

Yet again, it seems to be talk about extending the Midland Metro which has thrown a spanner in the works. Just like it was in the mid-1990s, when the council shelved proposals for the return of a proper railway link to the town, in favour of this elusive tram scheme.

In the meantime, sites along the proposed Metro route have been blighted with numerous attempts at regeneration hindered by the need to keep the route clear. Forgive my scepticism, but heavy electric trams are a 1920s solution to a 1990s transport problem.

The Metro scheme will cost £300 million, which will probably never materialise. It will also cause years of disruption to the Black Country road system, and affect many homes and businesses along the way. And by the time it sees the light of day, it will probably be about as up-to-date as a Sandie Shaw LP.

I very much doubt we will ever see the Midland Metro link from Wednesbury to Dudley, and frankly, I'm not sure I want to. I fear the main beneficiaries will not be the struggling town centres of the Black Country, but the areas that have already done pretty well out of regeneration policy.

The light shuttle service would have cost a fraction of the Metro, and could have been up and running within three years. A real missed opportunity.

A damaged road on A458 near Stourton

Potholes in Hunslet Road, Burntwood

A Highways Agency worker repairs a huge pothole

Problem is driving us motorists potty

Potholes are causing misery on the roads every single day and land car owners with large bills, as ROB COLLEDGE reports

THE sudden jolt, crunch of crumbling tarmac, and the thud of your car's suspension clattering – potholes cause misery on the roads every single day.

There are an incredible 31,000 potholes awaiting repair on Britain's roads across nearly 12,000 miles of roads.

And it is estimated they cause as many as one in 10 mechanical failures on our roads, costing motorists an estimated £730 million every year.

The national outrage at potholes has even led to the creation of a National Pothole Day by the website Street Repairs which takes place on January 15.

Freezing

The Government says it is investing more than ever to tackle the state of our roads – creating the first ever pothole fund. This year the Black Country and Staffordshire will get £1.5m to fill potholes. However, this has been described as a 'drop in the ocean' by council bosses.

Britain's climate makes it especially susceptible to potholes caused by water expanding as it freezes before melting. The road network has benefited from a record mild winter but the start to 2016 was not so welcoming.

Temperatures plummeted, bringing freezing conditions across the country.

Authorities are currently pay out more than £30 million in compensation claims due to poor roads. And new research reveals that seven in 10 experienced drivers think roads have got noticeably worse over the years they have been driving, with four out of five believing potholes and cracks are not fixed as quickly as they used to be.

A survey of nearly 10,000 over-50s by Saga Car Insurance found the majority of older motorists thought poor maintenance meant driving conditions had got worse in recent years.

Severe weather has taken its toll on roads

Just one in 10 said road conditions had improved in their lifetime.

Sue Green, head of car insurance at Saga, said: "Around nine out of 10 over-50s drive regularly so it's not surprising they have great insight about the state of the UK's roads. People shouldn't have to play Russian roulette with their suspension."

As well as potentially damaging cars, potholes can be dangerous and even deadly for cyclists and motorcyclists.

In January, a mother-of-three died after hitting a pothole in the road which was due to be repaired by a council. Triathlete Kate Vanloo, 52, rode into the water-filled hole in Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire, and was struck by a car after being thrown into the road.

The road was reportedly due to have been resurfaced before Christmas but the work was postponed. The pothole had been filled within 48 hours of the tragedy.

The Chancellor George Osborne announced a £250m pothole fund in his autumn statement as part of a package of measures to improve the country's creaking transport system.

Britain has more than 31,000 potholes awaiting repair on nearly 12,000 miles of roads, according to a report published in November.

The blighted roads would cover the distance from London to Wellington in New Zealand – roughly half way round the Earth.

A typical pothole measured 0.4 square metres and the average repair bill to cars for damage was £267, the research by insurer LV found.

The number of unfilled potholes could be higher, as only two-thirds of all councils responded to the insurer's Freedom of Information requests.

The research found drivers in the North East were most likely to suffer damage to their vehicles because of potholes, with 19 per cent having been affected, followed by 18 per cent of those in the West Midlands and 17 per cent in London.

In Wolverhampton, the council repairs more than 3,000 potholes every year. During 2014, the city council was awarded a cash windfall of £500,000 to fix thousands of potholes as part of a total £6.6m potholes cashpot shared with other Black Country and Staffordshire authorities.

Prime Minister David Cameron even singled Wolverhampton out for praise. "Wolverhampton has shown it is one of the leading areas in the country in its determination to beat potholes and is receiving extra cash as a result," he said.

But compensation payments to damaged cars remain a a big pressure on the public purse. More than £1m has been paid out to drivers in Sandwell for damage caused to their cars by potholes.

Ravaged

Around 200 claims from motorists were settled by Sandwell Council between 2011 and 2015. Last year, council workmen filled in more than 2,000 holes on the borough's ravaged roads.

Potholes cost taxpayers in Staffordshire more than £58,000 in compensation for damaged cars in a single year.

Staffordshire was ranked the 15th worst in the country for cars damaged by potholes after it was revealed a total of 875 claims were made in 2013-14, resulting in a pay-out of £58,314. However, the figures, released by the RAC Foundation, also showed this amount is significantly lower than the compensation released in 2012-13, which saw £94,866 paid out by Staffordshire County Council.

In Dudley, there were 185 successful claims from motorists whose vehicles were damaged by potholes across the borough between October 1, 2012, to October 1, 2015.

The figures, revealed by a Freedom of Information request, show the authority has had to shell out £40,322 in that period.

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Obama is keen to seal big trade deal

IN reply to A T Harrison – Obama came here for one reason only. That was to try to frighten the British voters to vote Remain, so that he can sign up the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement (TTIP) with the EU. They know that a Brexit would be a huge knock to the TTIP.

Obama is a puppet to big business, which also calls the shots over the EU. The TTIP is a trade agreement that in effect gives power to big business to allow these corporations to privatise public services, with the cherry in the cake being the NHS. They will also have the right to sue our government if they think they are holding back their future profits. For example if a large company wanted to start fracking in West Park and the Government tried to stop it, the company could sue for loss of future profits.

A similar deal, the 'North American Free Trade Agreement' has seen Lone Pine Resources suing the Canadian government for 250 million dollars because they temporarily stopped them from fracking in Quebec.

B K WILLIAMS
Tipton

A puzzler on claims over CQC

YOUR article about autism spectrum disorder was interesting, particularly with it being neither a learning disability or a mental health condition.

There is reference to 'Brett', a sufferer who spent eight years looking for work. With help, he found a job. Sadly I did not have this facility being diagnosed at 60, and now retired.

Still, I flexed my brain cells with an article, 'Health Trust told to raise standards'. The Care Quality Commission said it 'requires improvement'. The Trust chief executive, Karen Dowman, said: "CQC rated the majority of services as 'good' and three as 'outstanding'; we missed an overall rating of 'good' by only a few points."

My autistic brain analysed this: 'Good' is not as good as 'outstanding'. If some services were 'good' and the overall was just short of 'good', then statistically to balance out, some must have been, well, less than good. Fair comment?

R W WHITE
Wigmore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Sandwell Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Brits getting hung up on sovereignty

ALMOST every time some anti EU person writes or utters their rehearsed spiel, they mention sovereignty. May I ask them this question? Do the French or the Germans keep moaning about sovereignty?

Do you hear vast numbers in Spain or Italy mention it? What makes us British so different that we think that we are God's own race unable to do anything with our European neighbours unless we worry about sovereignty?

Do the great masses of British people really believe that we would be better off pulling out of Europe, abandoning human rights, and going cap-in-hand around the nations of the world seeking trade deals?

Have they never thought that the people who want us to withdraw from the EU might have hidden agendas? Read your history and see how we used to be treated before human rights came into being and don't rely on readymade philosophies for your opinion. As regards President Obama 'telling' us how to vote, he didn't! He merely advised us.

There is a difference. And might I remind some readers and critic that USA stands for United States of America. They were all once individual states who formed a solid alliance. So what is the difference between them and the EU? We will impoverish ourselves by leaving the EU.

C K MILLWARD
Tipton

Killer should die in prison

ANOTHER innocent life snuffed out by a vile perpetrator, why was this child ever put in her care in the first place? It's OK to keep saying there will be changes made to protect innocent children, it never happens, cruelty to children seems to be on the rise. We need to change the laws in this country.

Why do judges and the like come up with a life sentence and in the same breath say minimum of 18 years. Life should mean life, or bring back the death penalty. This person took bloodstained clothes, or mattress, and dumped them in a bin, then went home and pretended to cry when she called for help. She knew exactly what she had done; she should serve the life sentence. Let's start with this for the first change to save our children.

J FISHER
Tividale

Fingers point to the officials

ONCE again we see Birmingham Council, social services implicated after the untimely death of an 18 month old in their care.

Not only was this child murdered, she was tortured and brutalised, by a woman supposedly checked by social services.

Surely social workers and council officials should be prosecuted under the corporate manslaughter law. All that's needed is one successful prosecution, then maybe the next time they will ensure that they have it right, with proper checks made on a regular basis.

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Some of the artwork, part of artefacts from nine different museums

A ride-on locomotive built in 1900 by Grimshaw for Pitmaston Moor Green Railway

The Birmingham Museum Collection Centre is a huge warehouse in Dollman Street

This steam tractor, called Busy Bee, is the largest exhibit at the centre

Vintage toy cars which have been stored away at the premises

A magical history tour

IT looks like a scene from Night at the Museum, but this is part of the mammoth collection of artefacts that have been amassed from nine different locations.

The Museum Collections Centre in Birmingham, houses around 80 per cent of the artefacts in the Birmingham Museums Trust and holds over 800,000 pieces.

With a focus on Birmingham and the West Midlands, visitors often find themselves lost down memory lane, and sometimes physically lost, since the site spans one-and-a-half hectares.

And, with such a large collection, it's no surprise that some of the artefacts are massive – in some cases weighing well over 5,000 kg.

While there are plenty of stuffed animals, the centre has some pretty bizarre finds, notably a giant spider crab which, according to Emily Locke, a collections support officer, is gargantuan. She said: "The oldest artefacts we have here are prehistoric stone tools, which are around two-and-a-half million years old and made by early humans. "Among the 800,000 objects, we have some special pieces that range from the massive to bizarre. While there's a steamroller which is certainly one of the heavier pieces, we've also got the giant spider crab.

"We are constantly making sure that we care for the different collections in the right way, though. We have to monitor the light, temperature and humidity levels throughout the building and make sure that there aren't any pests.

"I really enjoy just being able to spend time down in the store with the collection – I love sharing the moments when we manage to uncover the story behind an object. Safe-keeping, and being able to access our cultural heritage, is a fundamental part of why we do it – so people can know our shared history."

An old television waits to be used in an exhibition, stored at the centre

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PCSO Louis still on the beat despite being 71

AT 71, Louis Martindale-Vale is Britain's oldest community support officer, but he still walks a marathon a day when out on the beat.

The beat bobby from Great Barr, has patrolled Erdington High Street for nine years and has been a regular sight giving chase to the area's yobs.

While he could be putting his feet up for retirement, Louis is happier pounding the streets.

Thanks to his persistent policing and interaction with his ward, the crime rate has plummeted since he donned the high vis jacket and cap.

And although Erdington police station has plenty of tea and coffee in case Louis is parched while doing the rounds, he'd much rather hang out in the window of a local café – so he can keep a watchful eye on the patch.

Louis Martindale-Vale, believed to be Britain's oldest PCSO, now aged 71

Foundations

According to Louis, he was suited to a career in policing, thanks to his 15 year stint in the Royal Navy as a Petty Officer in the Fleet Air Arm.

A keen boxer in his youth, Louis volunteered to go on shore patrols making sure his fellow seamen toed the line and reckons it laid the foundations for his lengthy public service.

Louis said: "I'll walk around 25 miles when I'm out on the beat, about the equivalent of a marathon – I've seen the pedometers before.

"Because I have been out on the beat for nine years, I know everyone in the area now and they know me.

"I used to box in the Royal Navy and would also help out on the shore patrols so when it came to turning my hand to policing I felt like it was a natural extension.

"I've got no plans on hanging up my uniform anytime soon – I'm just as fit as the younger officers when it comes to the tests we have to take. They'll often say to me 'I hope I'm in as good shape at your age'.

"I've lost count of the number of suspects I've had to chase down over the years – I'm still quick enough on my feet though to catch them.

"When I first started on the beat, when I spotted a known shoplifter, I'd have to run up and down the high street ducking into the shops to let them know – these days, we've got radio so it's much easier on my feet."

Chief Superintendent Richard Moore, from West Midlands Police, paid tribute to the long-serving PCSO and said: "Louis is a leading member of our neighbourhood policing team in Erdington.

"He is known by all of the traders and community members who often call and ask for Louis personally.

"Louis defies his advancing years by electing to work during the busiest periods. He is an absolutely superb role model for others and an inspiration to anyone who wants to serve their community."

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Passengers hot under the collar on Metros

PEOPLE who regularly use the Midland Metro tram line to get around the West Midlands have complained about the lack of air conditioning in the carriages during hot weather.

The complaints come as the UK experienced two of the hottest days so far this year, with temperatures reaching a sweltering 21 degrees or more.

Some passengers have even collapsed in the heat. The air conditioning, which is fitted as standard on all Metro services, appeared not to be working, even when it is switched on, according to some passengers.

Taking their complaints to Twitter on a special page called Midland Metroll, one traveller, Chris Bates said: "The conductor this morning didn't open the window. Is it not just standard practice in summer?"

On May 8, the hottest day of the year so far, Matt Metroll said: "26 degrees and the air con still not working. Makes you wonder if the 'new' metros even have it."

Some passengers believe that the windows can only be opened within the carriages as long as the doors are closed. However, this has done little to relieve

Report by Jessica

some passengers' experience of the heat. Tweeting on Friday, even after a spell of hot weather had come to an end, Phillip Eddington said: "I would like to know why it seems so hard to get some windows open on the trams."

Ali Bell, of Midland Metro, said: "All trams have heating and cooling systems. Tram conductors can open the windows. But we ask them to check the performance of the air conditioning first."

Chief Executive of Bus Users UK – Claire Walters, said: "Our advice to anyone experiencing difficulties on a tram or bus would be to talk to the driver to find out if there's anything that can be done to improve conditions.."

Bravery award for stab attack heroine

Faye Cartwright, seen with her Pride of Tipton award

'INSIDE I was panicking but I just had to do it' – the words of inspirational teenager Faye Cartwright who came to the aid of a young girl after she was stabbed in a Black Country high street.

Faye rushed into action after hearing the 10-year-old's mother screaming for help, managing to stem the bleeding and keep the victim calm as they waited for paramedics to arrive. The 16-year-old was out shopping in West Bromwich in December when she heard the commotion and said she just knew she had to help.

Faye's story was one of many told at the Pride of Tipton awards, honouring acts of bravery and people who go beyond the call of duty in other ways. Lifesavers and community champions from the town were invited to a ceremony last Wednesday at the RSA Academy, Bilston Road. Former RSA pupil Faye, who was given the Outstanding Bravery Award, said: "The mum came running and screaming saying her daughter was going to die. I raised her leg and wrapped my T-shirt around it and phoned an ambulance."

The young girl had been injured by a Stanley knife but details about what happened are not known.

Catalogue of failings laid bare at academy

VULNERABLE pupils potentially at risk, haphazard attendance records and unfit safeguarding policies are just some of the issues highlighted in a damning Ofsted report.

George Salter Academy in West Bromwich has been branded 'inadequate' and put into special measures after a visit from the schools watchdog.

The full extent of issues at the school is laid bare in the 10-page dossier compiled after an Ofsted inspection in March.

Leaders at the Davey Road establishment have been skewered by inspectors for being 'unaware' of how to safeguard youngsters from 'extremism or radicalisation'.

Disruptive

The academy was ranked inadequate by inspection chiefs in three areas, while school leaders faced severe criticism over both their leadership and management.

One of the main areas of inspectors' ire was the collection of records at the school – which leaves teachers not knowing if pupils' disruptive behaviour is improving. The report states: "The school records behaviour-related incidents electronically, which allows information about the number of incidents of different types to be collated as required. However, the analysis of this information is inadequate.

"Consequently, leaders do not know whether different aspects of behaviour, such as disruption in lessons, are getting better or worse over time."

The way in which pupils' attendance is recorded was also blasted as 'disorganised' and described as being 'a serious safeguarding issue'. Governors and the academy's sponsor are not immune from criticism – with inspectors saying their actions have left the school's policies unfit for purpose. The behaviour of teachers is criticised in the report. This states: "Teachers have not had the necessary safeguarding and child protection training. The school's safeguarding policy is not fit for purpose."

Three areas of effectiveness were rated as good with pupils praised for making 'good academic progress.' A school spokesman said: "The sponsor has taken decisive action to address the concerns raised."

George Salter Academy, which has been branded as 'inadequate'

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There's also the chance to sample a wide range of foods and beverages at the many outlets selling anything from Pimm's and champagne to strawberries and cream, and from Thai specialites to poached salmon.

During this break a visit to the picturesque town of Windsor is also included, where there is free time to explore. There is also the opportunity to visit the famous Windsor Castle (entrance available to book separately) and discover the opulent State Apartments, St George's Hall, plus the new Lantern Lobby.

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Bobbies hope to help stamp out crime

Wayne Griffiths, security programme manager with Sgt Neil Powers of Tyburn Neighbourhood Police Team

BOBBIES on the beat are a familiar sight across the Black Country. But police officers in post offices? Not so much.

That is all set to change now as West Midlands Police has signed a deal to launch pop-up surgeries in community post office branches.

Up to 30 post offices in Sandwell and 10 in north Birmingham will take part in the pilot project. Chiefs hope the scheme will give customers a chance to raise concerns in a relaxed environment and get to know their local cops.

Neighbourhood officers will tour branches on a rota basis and spend up to two hours chatting with visitors and passing on important crime prevention advice.

It's hoped the 'Adopt a Post Office' project will be rolled out across the region if it is well received.

Birmingham North Chief Inspector Mark Ward heads up the pilot. He said: "We've analysed footfall data at regional post offices and will be timing our pop-up surgeries to coincide with the busiest periods, such as pension day.

"People may have something on their mind they'd like to discuss with an officer but don't go out of their way to visit a police station or call 101 as they don't feel it's significant enough.

"This isn't about having a front-desk operation on the High Street and is not designed to be a crime reporting facility.

"The aim is to reach residents we might otherwise struggle to engage with…we'll be passing on important information like warning against distraction burglary, bogus callers and courier fraud."

West Midlands Police confirmed closure dates for 13 police stations in the Black Country earlier this year as part of £8.6 million cuts.

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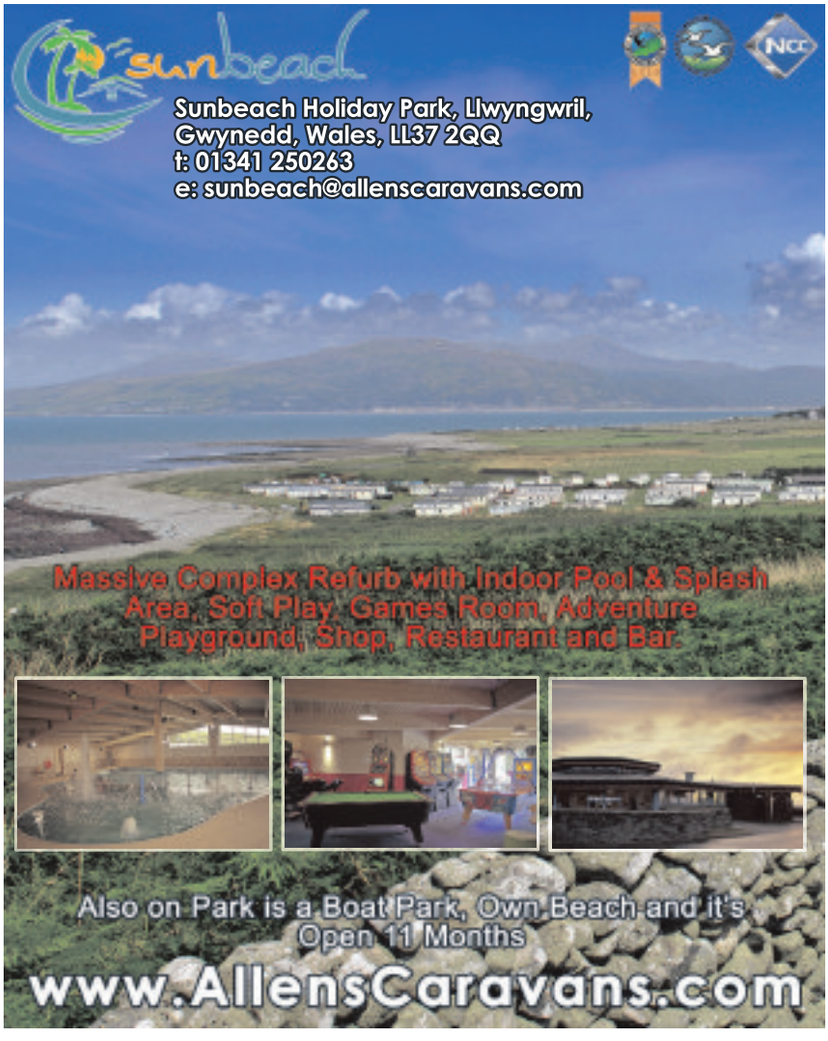

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Government on track for fewer stops

Fewer stops at 'intermediate' railway stations like Wolverhampton and Sandwell & Dudley have been proposed by the Government as a possible solution to reducing journey times.

The proposal – included in a 47-page consultation document on the future of the InterCity West Coast franchise – is likely to concern passengers in the Black Country.

The franchise is currently operated by Virgin Trains with around 300 train services every day, primarily on the West Coast Main Line between London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, North Wales, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The document states: "While some services are highly used in the peak, or just outside of peak hours, there are times of the day where the level of service might not reflect the level of demand at stations. In these cases we are interested in understanding whether there may be opportunities to adjust the level of service at stations which might enable wider benefits to be delivered elsewhere.

"For example, reducing the number of stops required at intermediate stations could enable reductions in the overall journey time to Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool or Glasgow or for potential new journeys to be offered."

Independent campaigning group, Railfuture, said it was generally against any measure which reduced the amount of stops on long-distance services.

The existing InterCity West Coast franchise is due to end in April 2018.

Student writers are onto a winner

BUDDING young authors from three Walsall schools picked up awards for their work in a new creative writing competition which allowed them to have their stories published.

Aldridge School set up the inaugural Walsall Rising Authors Awards to inspire children to write stories, with the pay-off being to see them printed in a book.

Staff from the school in Tynings Lane worked with Queen Mary's High School and Queen Mary's Grammar School to provide real-world writing experiences for young authors.

Confidence

Students were encouraged to write mini-sagas which were evaluated by a judging panel, led by Walsall mayor's poet laureate, Donovan Campbell, who also co-ordinated the 100 Walsall Poems Project.

The other judges were Walsall authors James Josiah and Stuart Williams.

Harbens Kaur, Aldridge School librarian and organiser of the awards, said: "This project has given students the opportunity to hone their creative skills.

"They have developed confidence through group interaction and independent work and earned the accolade of being a published writer.

"This has been a great experience for all students involved.

"The students have worked extremely hard and we are very proud of them.

"We are sure that they will continue to develop as young writers and inspire others to take on the challenge."

The students work was published in a We Are Writers book.

"During an awards ceremony, held at Walsall Public Library, students were presented with their books and three students collected special awards.

Best Pitch to advertise the book went to Kiara Swaby, from Aldridge School.

Best Plot went to Dominic Smith from Queen Mary Grammar School.

The Best Overall Story award went to Jessica Premji, from Queen Mary's High School.

From left to right, author and judge, Stuart Williams, Walsall poet laureate, and fellow judge Donovan Campbell, winner Kiara Swaby, author and judge, James Josiah, winner Dominic Smith and winner Jessica Premji

Cruise couple on song to celebrate 50 years

A COUPLE from the Black Country have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary – and marked the milestone in style by going on a Caribbean cruise.

Dulcie and Franklin Ebanks, from West Bromwich, celebrated 50 years of marriage on March 26 and have had a month-long worth of celebrations.

They went on a two-week cruise around the Caribbean and also enjoyed a family meal at the Akash Balti in West Bromwich. The couple first met at a family party in 1964 and got together after Franklin asked Dulcie to go out to the pictures the following week. In 1966 they tied the knot at Wesley Church, in West Bromwich.

Coincidence

Dulcie and Franklin received a blessing on board the cruise ship during their anniversary celebrations and enjoyed the hymn 'Ave Maria' – which was originally sung at their wedding more than 50 years ago.

"It was just a coincidence that it was sung," said Dulcie. "It was great and the cruise was lovely." The couple have two daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild – who all still live in West Bromwich. Asked to describe her husband, Dulcie said: "He is wonderful – a wonderful friend and partner. He treats me like his queen! The secret to the success of marriage is to give and take. Not just to throw in the towel but to persevere."

Franklin moved to England from Flagaman, Jamaica, when he was 16 and first lived with his sister in Black Lake, West Bromwich. He used to work as a foreman at Delta Engineering in Greets Green Road in West Bromwich.

Dulcie enjoys a variety of art and crafts hobbies; including painting, both oil and watercolour, sewing and photography.

The couple mark their 50th anniversary

Franklin and Dulcie on their big day

Drugs crackdown pledge

POLICE have vowed to crack down on drug abuse and dealing in a Walsall neighbourhood. According to West Midlands Police neighbourhood officers in Bloxwich West, 'information is starting to grow' in relation to drug dealing in the Mossley area.

Officers have also said they will be targeting drug dealers and looking to remove them from their homes.

PC Caroline Archbold said: "Information is starting to grow in relation to drug abuse and dealing out of some houses in Mossley and surrounding areas. We are investigating a number of properties and regularly work with the Walsall Housing Group and council to discuss who is in the houses which are complained about.

"Having spoken with a variety of concerned residents in Mossley recently, we will be targeting drug dealers. As well as facing conviction, we will seek to have drug dealers removed from their homes for breaching their tenancy agreements."

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Tribute plaque? That'd be just Dandy

Dandy cartoonist Charlie Crick, who was born in Rood End and who died in 2013 aged 97

A Black Country poet, musician and author has launched a campaign for a blue plaque to be made in honour of revered Dandy cartoonist Charlie Grigg.

The comic was published for 75 years, before moving entirely online in 2012. Langley-born Mr Grigg, who loved drawing from the age of six, quickly became one of the nation's most celebrated comic cartoonists and was behind the design for Dandy's Korky the Kat for more than 20 years, the iconic Desperate Dan and a host of other sketches.

He died aged 97 on December 4, 2013, but his long career will be remembered for his iconic drawings.

He took over drawing the cover for The Dandy on January 20, 1962, working there for the next 22 years, with 21 of those illustrating all the Dandy Annual Covers.

Now Dr Brian Dakin is looking for the Rood End-born artist to be finally given the 'recognition he deserves'.

Dr Dakin has been in touch with the Head Mistress at Mr Grigg's old school, Rood End Primary School, at possible options for the plaque to be located.

He said: "Charlie Grigg was such an important man, and his contribution to the youth culture of a generation was incredible.

"He created all of these iconic cartoons, but did it all without leaving Langley.

"His work is known all over the world, and so he should be recognised as the man behind the brilliant sketches of Dandy.

"The committee at Black Country Radio is keen to do a documentary on Charlie's life and we're in the process of planning events for the winter to raise money for the plaque, which is going to cost around £600."

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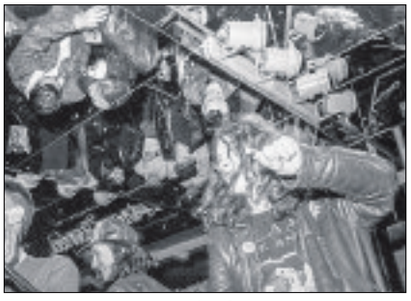
Miles Hunt from the Wonder Stuff seen in full flow in the band's heyday

The Mighty Lemon Drops performing in 1986

Graham Crabb of Pop Will Eat Itself, performing at the club in December 1986

Pop Will Eat Itself, one of the big Midland bands



The club was renowned for its low mirrored ceiling

Exhibition will Click with indie fans hoping to rekindle music memories

UNSEEN photographs of Black Country rock bands have been revealed as part of an exhibition documenting the music scene in the 1980's.

The exhibition, called 'Is There Anyone Out There?', is being held at Birmingham City University's Parkside Gallery and explores the history of the city's 'The Click Club', which was located on Broad Street.

There will be a collection of original photographs, film footage, posters, audio recordings and eyewitness accounts exploring different bands that performed there.

Among them will be Black Country bands 'Pop Will Eat Itself' and 'Ned's Atomic Dustbin', which both formed in Stourbridge.

Pop Will Eat Itself formed in 1986 and achieved Top 40 hits with 'Can U Dig It?' and 'Wise Up! Sucker' from their album, 'This Is the Day...This Is the Hour...This Is This!' Ned's Atomic Dustbin formed the following year.

In April 1991 they released their album 'God Fodder', which reached number 4 in the UK top 40 albums chart.

Other bands featuring in the exhibition include Blur, Primal Scream and Bjork.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Jamie Brassington

Showcased

The exhibition draws upon the personal archive of music promoter and photographer Dave Travis – where thousands of photographs taken at the club between 1986 and 1990 will be showcased.

It marks 30 years since the club, located at 'Burberries on the Street' nightclub on Broad Street, opened.

Travis said: "Steve Coxon and I started The Click Club out of frustration at having to travel all over the Midlands to see the bands that we liked or that we were reviewing for the music press.

"We thought that it would be an ideal situation if we stayed where we were and the bands came to us. Birmingham was very different in the 1980s; most of the clubs stipulated a 'smart dress' policy and as a result the nights I and my friends could go to were limited.

"The Click Club operated a 'no smart dress' policy although it was always more of an attitude restriction."

The club showcased a wide variety of acts during its lifetime which reflected the varied culture of indie music such as Primal Scream, We've Got a Fuzzbox and We're Gonna Use It, and The Mighty Lemon Drops.

It also supported the emergence of bands from the area such as The Wonder Stuff and Ocean Colour Scene.

The material in the exhibition is built up from donations of people who attended the event and loaned artefacts.

The title of the exhibition comes from the single Is There Anyone Out There? from Birmingham band Mighty Mighty that was released in 1986.

Paul Long, Professor of Media and Cultural History at the University said: "The lovelorn lyric evokes the romantic angst of youth but also poses a question for the curators of this exhibition: Who is out there who might know about the Click Club and is anyone else interested in this subject?

"We are interested in finding out how people engage with the exhibition and welcome feedback from from those who were part of this community as well the wider public of Birmingham and beyond.

"We want to know: What is the value of this material?

"What does it tell us beyond confirming the memories of the few individuals it concerned, and does such material have wider importance and contributions to make for our understanding of the past?"

The exhibition is free to attend and runs until Friday, May 27, at Birmingham City University's Parkside Gallery.

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Exhibitionism is the first international exhibition charting the story of The Rolling Stones, and will take over two entire floors of the prestigious Saatchi Gallery.

Nine thematic galleries, over 500 original artefacts, and striking cinematic and interactive technologies will lead visitors through the band's fascinating 50-year history.

It will feature original stage designs, rare guitars and instruments, iconic costumes, unseen video clips, audio tracks, personal diaries and album cover artwork.

There will also be collaborations and work by an array of artists, designers, musicians and writers – from Andy Warhol, Shepard Fairey, Alexander McQueen and Ossie Clark to Martin Scorsese.

Free time in London for shopping or sightseeing in the theatre district is also included. Here the shops, market stalls and eateries of Covent Garden are just a short walk away, and the famous stores on Oxford Street and Regent Street are close by too.

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: JUL 23, AUG 20

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Muslim messages set to be shown on the buses

WEST Midlands buses will soon be emblazoned with Arabic phrases praising Allah in an initiative by Birmingham charity Islamic Relief.

Posters on the side of buses in the region will carry the words 'Subhan Allah', which translates to 'Glory be to God', in a bid to raise funds for victims of war and those to have suffered disasters in countries at war.

The idea is to portray the Islamic religion in a positive light and is part of an advertising campaign that will appear nationwide.

The scheme is set to run from May 23, although images of the slogan have already surfaced across London's iconic red double-deckers. It is hoping to coincide with Ramadan, the holy month of June, where Muslims traditionally fast and donate to charity.

Negative

Imran Madden, UK Director of Islamic Relief, said: "In a sense this could be called a climate change campaign because we want to change the negative climate around international aid and around the Muslim community in this country.

"International aid has helped halve the number of people living in extreme poverty in the past 15 years, and British Muslims are an incredibly generous community who give over £100 million to international aid charities in Ramadan.

"We want to celebrate the fact that extreme poverty has been halved and give thanks for the opportunity that Ramadan provides to give generously in support of people in need."

England cricketer Moeen Ali, who plays for Worcestershire, added: "This campaign is a great way to get people talking about the meaning of Ramadan – a special month that's not only about fasting but also about spiritual reflection and giving to those less fortunate."

The campaign took to the streets of London a month after the capital named the first Muslim mayor or a major Western city. Newly-elected Sadiq Khan is the son of a bus driver.

According to Zakat, Islamic law, Muslims should donate 2.5 per cent of their income to the poor. The charity Islamic Relief have aided more than 100 million people across the world since being established in 1984.

One of London's iconic red double-decker buses emblazoned with the slogan

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This service costs £26.49 per day with a subscription charge of £7 per day for activities, transport and meals. Half day drop in sessions are also available to any older person who wishes to attend social activities and make new friends.

This costs £7 per day for activities and meals.
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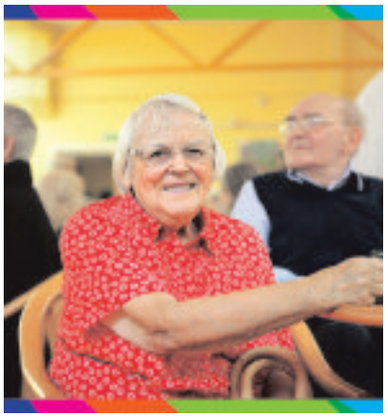

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Fire rips a big hole in house roof

The hole left by the blaze

A LOFT fire possibly started by a small cannabis factory left a Coseley house roof with a large hole.

More than 20 firefighters battled the fire at the Julie Croft home in the early hours of Sunday May 8.

The occupants had got out before fire crews arrived and were checked over by ambulance crews as a precaution. West Midlands Police confirmed they suspected cannabis cultivation equipment as the cause of the fire, but added no-one was arrested as any potential evidence had been destroyed. The fire was stopped in two hours and confined to the loft but left a gaping hole in the roof.

Calling all car booters

A SUNDAY car boot sale and market takes place throughout May on the Council House car park in Oldbury.

Car boot pitches are just £5. Stalls for traders are £10. To book call 07471 037138.

Open from 6am, events finish at 2pm. The car park entrance is off the A4034 slip road to West Bromwich Street in Oldbury.

FOCUS ON OLDBURY

Media giant new owner of Black Country radio station

OLDBURY-BASED radio station Free Radio – the former Beacon Radio – has been sold to a multi-national media giant.

Orion Media, which owns Free Radio and East Midlands sister station Gem, has been taken over by the Bauer Media Group for an undisclosed sum. Hamburg-based Bauer already operates stations including Kiss, Magic and Absolute Radio.

It also has magazine titles such as Grazia, Empire and Heat, and said it now plans to grow the business.

Beacon, which was based in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, was rebranded as Free in 2012. The station, which serves Shropshire as well as the Black Country, moved the following year to new studios in Black Country House in Rounds Green Road, Oldbury.

Bauer chief executive Paul Keenan said: "Free Radio and Gem are influential radio stations in one of the UK's fastest growing regions.

"Bauer's desire to build out its extensive radio business is testament to the nature of the industry which continues to be a strong, robust and growing platform, thriving in the always-on, mobile, connected world.

"Bauer Media's leadership in digital and personalised advertising technology will accelerate the development of the brands and we look forward to working with the team to grow the business."

Report by John Corser

Free Radio and Gem have a combined weekly listener figure of around 1.25 million, and their addition mean Bauer's national and regional stations will now reach 17.4 million people.

Bauer Media's share of the UK commercial radio audience increases to 34 per cent thanks to the move.

Beacon, which was launched in 1976, had in the past been owned by Capital Radio, GCap before being bought by Orion. Along with three sister stations – BRMB, Mercia, and Wyvern, it was renamed Free Radio in 2012.

Orion's move for the stations in 2009 was backed by Lloyds Banking Group's investment arm, which has now exited the business.

Patrols are stepped up on fly-tipping menace

Flytipping at Shireland Passage, as people are urged to use Shidas Lane's facility

COUNCIL chiefs are calling on the public to utilise Oldbury's household recycling centre as they clampdown on increasing fly-tipping in Sandwell.

Bags of dirty clothing, mattresses, sofas and fridge freezers are just part of a fly-tipping mess dumped in Smethwick streets.

Piles of rubbish have been left sprawled across Woodburn Road and Shireland Passage over the past week – which is just metres away from shops in the town.

Fixed penalty notices will be issued from this month for small-scale offences such as dumping pieces of broken furniture, old televisions or mattresses.

Environment chief Councillor Maria Crompton said: "If people witness fly-tipping, please let us know by reporting it online at mysandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 6625. We urge people to make use of the council's household recycling centre, in Shidas Lane, Oldbury– it's free for residents.

"Residents can also book a Bulky Household Collection service, which is chargeable, but cheaper than hiring a skip. Alternatively residents could sell or give away their unwanted items. Organisations like Community Transport can re-use or recycle unwanted items."

Euro DVD released by Wolves fan

Fan Mike Crump with Wolves legend Ron Flowers

A DVD spearheaded by an Oldbury Wolves fan charting his team's glorious European floodlit matches has been released.

Mike Crump's Champions of the World project also includes created a paper and oral history archive. The three-disc DVD focuses heavily on Wolves' famous 1950s games against Honved, Spartak Moscow, Real Madrid and Dynamo Moscow, as well as the 1971/72 Uefa Cup run.

They include interviews with Ron Flowers, Graham Taylor, Ron Atkinson, Gordon Banks, John Richards and Peter Knowles. Copies of the paper and oral history archive will be lodged at the Wolves Museum and the National Football Museum in Manchester as research archives available for anyone to access.

To order a copy for £20 make cheques payable to Our Voice CIC and send to to Mike Crump, Champions of the World Project, 29 Trident Drive, Langley Green, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8HW. Alternatively email mikec.ourvoice@gmail.com or phone 07400 954124.

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Sandwell

Tailor John shows Fonz-tastic skills

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

A KEEN eye and steady hand has served John Jahangir well over his years as a tailor specialising in anything leather.

Fonz leather based in Oldbury has served the local people for over 20 years and John says he can turn his hand to fitting anyone who has a need for any leather or sheepskin garment.

Over the years John has been asked to create some unusual clothes, including five different colours of the legendary Freddie Mercury leather jacket for a tribute band. After he made the first one the client was that happy that he ordered four more to be used in their shows. The shop began life in Wolverhampton Street Dudley, before moving across the Black Country to Rounds Green Road, Oldbury.

Warehouse

Clients travel from all over the country for John's services, via recommendations from happy customers to suppliers who cannot help clients with specific needs so they send them to John whose reputation means he can always deliver!

The company is about to close one of its warehouses in Walsall which means that it has a huge stock clearance in the shop with some items being offered at 50 per cent and some with a further 20 per cent!

A big plus for the company at the moment are real Buffalo Hide belts which are on offer now at £19.99 or 2 for £35, each with a lifetime guarantee. John employs over 35 people and the shop has 100 ladies and gents leather and sheepskin jackets on display in the shop. John also has very strict policy when it comes to clients browsing in the shop.

Leather tailoring specialist John Jahangir seen at work at Fonz Leather in Oldbury

The stock which is being sold off

He says: "I instruct my staff to let customers look and browse as much as they want, with the peace of mind that they can leave and feel happy to return, but if they need help or advice, then I or my staff are always happy to answer their questions with no obligation."

More unusual requests that John has had over the years include cat-suits to be worn by Elvis impersonators. He proudly states that whilst he was working in London quite a few years ago he was asked to fashion a pointy leather bra with chrome spikes sticking out of it.

John notified the customer to inform them that the spikes were very expensive and only came in batches of 500, but he was told that money was no object and to carry on. "I saw Madonna wearing something like it in a video but of course I could not say it is the one I made with any certainty!"

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Election result stirs fresh hope for the Hippodrome

THE CAMPAIGN to save the landmark Hippodrome has been given fresh hope – as the leaders of both the Conservative and UKIP groups at Dudley council say they want to keep the historic venue.

Dudley Council has been left with no party in overall control after the local elections.

By David Callaghan

If the two parties voted together on any issue – including the future of the Hippodrome – they would be able to outvote biggest single party, Labour.

UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said saving the iconic Castle Hill venue is one of the party's priorities and UKIP would 'work with any party to achieve this'.

His Tory counterpart Patrick Harley also said that he wants to save the building, which hosted such stars as Laurel and Hardy before becoming a bingo hall. It is now unused.

Council Harley and praised new proposals put forward by The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, which needs up to £8 million to fund their rescue plan. New proposals put forward by the group are much better than the previous plans submitted," he said.

"I would love to see something happen with the building and I don't agree with knocking it down."

If the two political parties did choose to work together on a move to save the Hippodrome, that could give new impetus to the campaign after the Labour-run council proposed to demolish the building and replace it with a landscaped open space.

UKIP'S Councillor Brothwood said they would also look at reversing plans to mothball the town's museum and art gallery in Priory Street. He said: "Saving the museum, bringing the Hippodrome back into use, fundamental changes to children's services – these are our priorities."

Many stars appeared at the venue including Flanagan & Allen, Chico Marx, Jackie Coogan, Bob Hope, Vera Lynn, Evelyn Laye, Jack Buchanan, Tommy Handley and George Formby. The theatre presented an annual pantomime which ran for several weeks around Christmas and into the New Year's with casts that included Harry Secombe, Derek Roy, Tommy Cooper, Eve Boswell, Beryl Reid and Morecambe & Wise.

Dudley Hippodrome – UKIP are determined to save the former theatre and to keep the town's museum and art gallery open

Zoo study on snow leopards

DUDLEY Zoo's trio of snow leopards are under observation as part of a university study.

Paige Griffiths is spending 100 hours observing how Margaash, Nanga and Makalu interact with different enrichment smells.

As part of the study, keepers are adding a metre-long green dog rope into the enclosure, which Paige is either leaving unscented or covering with cinnamon or sheep bedding scent.

The 20-year-old, who is studying animal care with animal behaviour at Staffordshire University, based at Rodbaston College, said they were already discovering more about the inquisitive snow leopards' behaviour.

"The first type of rope that went in with the snow leopards was unscented," she said.

Museum gets public vote

BOSSES at the Black Country Living Museum are celebrating after the venue notched two awards.

The museum, in Tipton Road, was named 'Best Midlands Visitor Attraction' as well as 'Best Visitor Attraction – Wolverhampton and Black Country' in the What's On Readers' Awards. More than 25,000 votes were cast online after the finalists were announced. The museum beat Alton Towers and Cadbury World.

Vows are renewed in a webcast

SEVERAL couples who got married at Priory Hall renewed their vows in a live web broadcast group ceremony to celebrate the venue's 25th anniversary.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne, were among those taking part in the event on Friday, May 6, which was deemed a huge success.

All the couples renewed their marriage vows together in a joint celebration which was broadcast live on the internet for family and friends to watch. Each couple also received a commemorative certificate as a souvenirn.

The ceremony was conducted by superintendent registrar Penny Fulford, who conducted a number of the original wedding ceremonies, supported by original staff member Joanne Hackett, now registration officer.

Wheel bosses Eye up return

THE DY Eye ferris wheel will be returning to Dudley for a second spin next year and will be 'bigger and better', according to town centre traders.

Business bosses and council chiefs will bring the iconic DY Eye back in 2017.

A date is yet to be confirmed, but the wheel will be back, said Len Lenihan of Dudley Market Traders. More than 11,000 people took a spin on the 115ft attraction last month.

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Accommodation is at the three-star Mayfair Hotel which is just a five minute stroll from St Helier town centre. There is a spacious reception area, with the lounge, bar, dining room and coffee shop all located on the ground floor.

Other facilities include a sun terrace, health club with gym, indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi and steam room.

Various themed breaks are also offered throughout the year. These include a break for single travellers where there is no single room supplement, Tennerfest Food Festival breaks, an autumn walking festival break, plus 99p bar breaks (conditions apply).

There are also special holidays for the festive season including Turkey and Tinsel, Christmas shopping, Christmas, Twixmas and of course New Year breaks. Request a brochure for full details.

DAYS: 4 to 8 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

CHRONICLE

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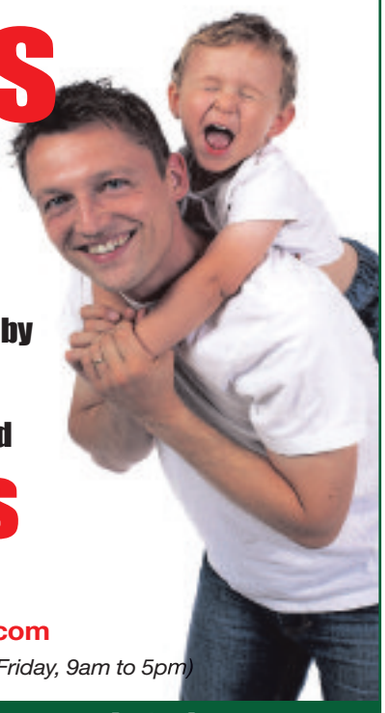

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Volunteers are key to success of charity centre

Volunteers gather to cut the celebration cake as Barnadro's Donation Centre in Brierley Hill is a year old this month

FUNDRAISERS are celebrating the success of a charity shop which has received more than a thousand bags of donations since its opening a year ago.

Barnardo's opened a special donation centre in Brierley Hill. Customers can browse for a bargain at the front of the store but it also acts as a hub for the distribution of goods to other shops.

There are large bays at the back of the store at The Moor Centre, in High Street,where volunteers sort stock.

The Brierley Hill hub has received 1,200 bags of clothes, books, toys, games and accessories since opening, which has been made possible by 6,000 hours of support from hardworking volunteers.

Cake

To celebrate its first anniversary this month, the team gathered together to cut a specially-decorated cake with a large number one.

Barnardo's shop manager Carole Hughes said: "We wanted to arrange a special thank-you for everyone who has worked so hard and achieved so much during our first year of trading.

"We have an amazing team of 19 volunteers, aged from 14 to 66-years-old, who give anything from four to 24 hours of their own time each week in order to support the charity."

She added: "Some were here on work experience and decided to stay with us afterwards, others simply wanted to get out of the house or gain more confidence.

"Some even use it as an opportunity to improve their English language skills."

The donation centre is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5.30pm and also on Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

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Express & Star

Synth-pop duo are in harmony

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

WEST Midlands synth duo Field Harmonics seem to have found the common ground between Clannad and Depeche Mode on their sometimes magnificent, sometimes derivative, second album Corners.

The electro-pop pair consist of Wolverhampton musician and producer Rob Glover, from experimental outfit epic45, and 19-year-old singer-songwriter Bryony Williams.

Highlights include the two singles Life and Heron, the sombre grandeur of Words and epic closing track Fear.

These People, the first album in six years from former Verve frontman **Richard Ashcroft**, celebrates his melancholy melodic strengths whilst also exploring a harder electronic sound on opener Out Of My Body and single Hold On.

The fact that Ashcroft is reunited with Will Malone, who helped create the string arrangements on classic Verve albums A Northern Soul, Urban Hymns and Ashcroft's solo debut Alone With Everybody, can ensure anyone who counts A Song for the Lovers among their favourites that they are in safe hands. This Is How It Feels and closing track Songs Of Experience both have that langorous Ashcroft quality and, a few lyrical platitudes aside, this is a solid return to form.

Young Norwegian DJ and producer **Kygo** (it rolls off the tongue easier than Kyrre Gørvell-Dahll) will make a considerable impact with his debut album **Cloud Nine**, as it is chock-full of special guest singers including John Legend, Foxes, Labrinth and Kodaline.

West Midlands synth duo Field Harmonics pictured in concert

The classically trained pianist turned Wireless festival headliner has already notched up one billion plays on Spotify and his album boasts three hits – Stole The Show featuring Parson James, Firestone with Conrad Sewell and Stay featuring teenager Maty Noyes. Raging featuring Kodaline will be the next.

What these songs cleverly do is combine pop hooks with the feel-good euphoria of dance music, though like most current pop it tends to the bland.

Oasis sung by Foxes and penned by Sia, Not Alone with Rhodes, Fiction featuring Tom Odell could also be plucked as potential hits.

At his best Jake Webb, leader of Aussie trio **Methyl Ethel**, is like a lo-fi Brian Wilson. He wrote, sang and played everything on debut album **Oh Inhuman Spectacle**, and formed the band to take his music from the bedroom to the world.

He shares a similar eclectic neo-psychedelic style with fellow Perth scene luminaries Tame Impala, though the nearest fit with Webb's quirky atmospheric style is Mercury Rev circa Deserter's Songs.

A few tracks still have the hallmarks of bedroom laptop noodling but there are several moments of pop brilliance, including jangly gems Rogues and Twilight Driving.

Another Splash of Colour: New Psychedelia in Britain 1980-1985 is a handsome three disc boxed set from RPM with a detailed booklet looking at the mostly London based bands that formed this scene that developed out of the Mod revival and New Wave.

There are some golden nuggets among the 64 tracks, including songs from The Attractions (minus Elvis Costello), The Soft Boys and their leader Robyn Hitchcock, Julian Cope, Freight Train and The Green Telescope. But there is also a lot of mediocre stuff from various Mod outfits and punks (Charlie Harper, Captain Sensible).

The interesting psych revival was actually taking place across the Atlantic, featuring The Bangles, The Rain Parade and Prince on his Around The World In A Day album, and the proper next stage of British psychedelic rock came in 1989 with the arrival of The Stone Roses and The Charlatans.

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Turning derelict into works of art

Graffiti artist Steve brings splash of colour to city streets, as Jessica Labhart explains

Grrr – a tiger face painted in Coventry

The chimpanzee painting at Dudley Zoo chimp house

FROM the colourful flight of a hummingbird, to the monochrome close-up of a chimpanzee – the graffiti work of a Wolverhampton artist is helping to re-define street art.

Steve Edwards, a so-called 'Graffoflarge' artist has been commissioned by community organisations around Wolverhampton to transform derelict and unsightly walls and buildings into works of art.

The artist, who is 42, and lives in Castlecroft, completed a BA Honours degree in Fine Art at Coventry University, graduating in 1998.

He was a civil engineer for several years, working for Severn Trent as a 're-instator' repairing footpaths and other spaces but left the company in 2011 to create his artwork.

Mr Edwards said: "I like to focus on the positive things in life, rather than on the negative.

"The world is dark enough. A lot of graffiti artists paint skulls and things like that but I like to do bright things, a lot of animals and positive imagery."

On boarding outside the old Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary

Mr Edwards' most recent piece, on the boards in front of the currently derelict Eye Infirmary on Compton Road, was inspired by the artist quarter's logo and the inside of a plant.

"If you look at the piece" Mr Edwards said, "you can see a triangle inside a speech bubble shape.

"The triangle is the A and the speech bubble is the Q – representing 'Artists Quarter.'"

The piece was funded by Creative Black Country in conjunction with community organisation Mental Spaces and Westside Artists' Quarter, marking the beginning of various projects around Chapel Ash showcasing artists' work.

Seasonal

The commissions came off the back of Mr Edward's painting of the Tower Works industrial estate in Penn Fields before it was demolished.

Last year, the artist also painted several murals for Dudley Zoo, including the black and white chimpanzee piece. His current project is painting various birds along a railway walk in Wolverhampton.

Speaking of the project, Mr Edwards said: "I like to do seasonal work. So at the moment I'm focusing on the bird paintings for spring and summer. Then in the winter I do more pencil-based work and smaller-scale art.

"Before I paint anything I have a look on the internet for high-resolution images and go from there."

The artist can also complete his large-scale works in a short space of time.

The one in front of the Eye Infirmary was started at around 9.30am and done by about midday the same day.

The artist is currently selling some of his smaller-scale painting and canvas work, including Cherub Eyes, at a pop-up gallery in Victoria Street in Wolverhampton, close to the Forbidden Planet shop.

Mr Edwards will also be doing some on-the-spot painting at Bantock House, Museum and Park on July 23 for those interested in seeing how he works.

He will also shortly be available for workshops throughout the summer, as he is launching a series of art sessions for children, taking place in Heath Town, Wednesbury and Tamworth.

To find out more, visit Mr Edward's website at: http://graffoflarge.com/ or call: 07530 690113.

A blue tit painted as part of the railway walk project

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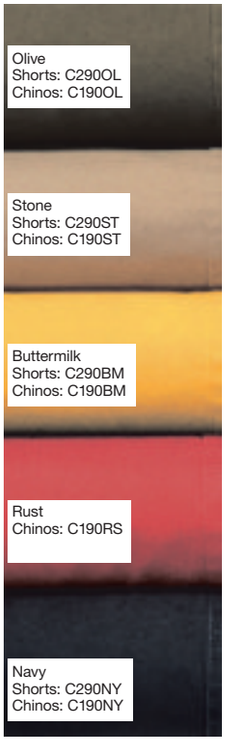

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The Sound of Music

Tuesday-Saturday
Birmingham Hippodrome
Opera singing finalist in The Voice 2015 Lucy O'Byrne will play Maria in this latest revival of the ever-popular family musical with Coronation Street's Andrew Lancel as Captain Von Trapp.
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Busted

Friday, 7.30pm
Genting Arena, NEC, B'ham
The comeback fans thought would never happen, even by the year 3000, as Charlie Simpson rejoins Matt Willis and James Bourne for guitar slinging noughties pop hits.
www.gentingarena.co.uk

James

Friday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
Sit Down (or stand up) to singalong with Tim Booth (pictured) and co back with album Girl At The End Of The World. Don't miss support act Jack Savoretti.
Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Graham Nash

Sunday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
Back with new album This Path Tonight, the Salford-born singer-songwriter from The Hollies and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young looks back over five decades.
Visit www.thsh.co.uk

MUSIC

Grimethorpe Colliery Band
Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: Tchaikovsky's Fifth
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Fairport Convention
Fri at 7.45pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, 20-28 Mount Pleasant, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Panic Room
Sat at 3pm, Sun at 3pm
The Robin 2 Hotel, 20-28 Mount Pleasant, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Space
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, 16-18 Bristol Street, Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Dominic Kirwan
Sun at 7.30pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Limes Road, Telford, Telford and Wrekin, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

Beverley Knight
Thu at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Charlie Puth
Sun at 7pm,
The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Laura Mvula
Sat at 6pm,
The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

The Smyths: The Smiths Tribute
Fri at 6.30pm, £12
O2 Academy Birmingham, 16-18 Bristol Street, Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

James
Fri at 6pm,
Barclaycard Arena, King Edwards Rd, City Centre, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

The Primitives
Thu at 7.30pm - 11pm,
Hare & Hounds, 106 High Street, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Lukas Graham
Thu at 7pm,
The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Busted
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Genting Arena, Genting Arena, Perimeter Road, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

G Easy
Tue at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Josh Groban
Sat at 8pm, £50
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

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Himley Hall & Park, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 4DF. Call 01384 817817

The REP - Backstage Tours
Sat at 11am,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, St George's Court, Albion Street, Birmingham, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

A Celebration Of Women And Art
Thu at 1pm - 1.45pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Theatre Tour
Sat at 10.30am,
New Alexandra Theatre, Suffolk Street Queensway, Birmingham, West Midlands, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Haden Hill House Museum
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 2pm - 6pm, Sun at 11am - 3pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Haden Hill House Museum, Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU. Call 01384 569444

National Trust: Wightwick Manor
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Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wightwick Bank, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV6 8EE. Call 01902 760100

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Dudley Zoological Gardens, Castle Hill, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4QF. Call 0844 474 2272

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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

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Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Southside, Birmingham, West Midlands, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Made In Dagenham: West Bromwich Operatic Society
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £16 - £22
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

Katherine Ryan: Kathbum
Fri at 8pm - 10pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Eddie Izzard: Force Majeure
Mon at 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, £
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Julian Clary: The Joy Of Mincing
Thu at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Mark Steel: Who Do I Think I Am?
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Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

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Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield St, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Chris Holloway: A Transport Of Delight
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The Museum Of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Hednesford, WS12 1TD. Call 01543 877666

Two Tyres
Fri at 10am - 1pm. Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LU. Call 01902 552507

David Ward: In A Landscape
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Antique Valuation Day
Thu at 11am - 2pm. Bantock House, Finchfield Rd, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ. Call 01902 552195

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Don is back and king of the stage

IN ancient Britain bound by clan loyalty and the power of the sword, King Lear decides to give up his crown.

As he divides the kingdom between his daughters, family ties disintegrate, order disappears and the land slides into chaos.

Don Warrington, best known for his roles in TV shows including Rising Damp and, more recently, Death in Paradise, is coming back to Birmingham's Repertory Theatre, to play Shakespeare's greatest tragic figure.

The 64-year-old actor has won acclaim in the title role in King Lear on tour, one of the productions to commemorate 400 years since Shakespeare's death. Birmingham Rep, from tonight (Thursday) until May 28 is the last stop for the show – a co-production between Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre and the Talawa Theatre Company, the UK's primary Black led touring theatre company.

He has performed Shakespeare in Birmingham before, playing Antonio in The Merchant of Venice. But this formidable, strong lead role in a three hour epic is a whole new challenge.

"It's huge. It's like looking at Mount Everest and thinking, 'I'm going to try and climb that'. You're trying to convey the essence of a human being," says Don.

"I have seen actors play Lear previously, but I asked myself what he was like, and what kind of man he was. There are clues given in the text; he's an old man who clearly has a temper. He's used to ruling, and does something that's not very wise.

"I thought about him in terms of what a man of that age would be feeling. What would be going on with him? That's how I approached it."

A game of thrones – Don Warrington as King Lear, later this summer Sir Antony Sher will also take on the actor's 'Everest' at Stratford

Shakespeare is challenging to bring to life from text – it takes a talented actor to portray the characters as humans that we can relate to.

"Shakespeare was meant to be performed, not read in a dry, academic way," says Don. "They're literature but they're meant to be done and seen. That's what he wrote them for – the stage. The more people that see them performed, with flesh and blood on them, the easier it becomes to understand."

New jukebox Jackie show

A 50something divorced mum with a teenage son is transported back to her own teen years when she happens across a box of her old Jackie magazines in Jackie The Musical.

Staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 28, the Mamma Mia-style jukebox musical plunders the heart-throb hits of the '70s, originally done by Donny Osmond, David Cassidy, David Essex and Marc Bolan.

Her teenage self is mystified by texting, apps and social media, and advises her middle aged self to turn to the magazine's Cathy 'n' Claire for advice on romance.

The show promises a feast of nostalgia for the age of tank tops, platform shoes, enormous flares, Tartan scarves and Top Of The Pops.

The show stars Janet Dibley, pictured left, (from TV's The Two of Us, EastEnders and Doctors) as Jackie, former Stourbridge Oldswinford Hospital school pupil and EastEnders actor Nicholas Bailey as Max, musical theatre and former Bread actor Graham Bickley as John, and Daisy Steere as Young Jackie.

With choreography by Arlene Phillips and full of hits such as Crazy Horses, I Love To Love and Tiger Feet, the show's creative consultant is Grumpy Old Woman and former Jackie editor Nina Myskow. With a trendy London address but actually based in the Scottish city of Dundee, Jackie the magazine lasted for nearly 30s years from 1964 to '93, and for around ten years was the top-selling teen title. It was full of fashion and beauy tips, love stories, life advice and pin-up posters of pop idols that ended up plastered across bedroom walls.

Fairport convene for Robin concert

TOMORROW night (Friday) folk-rock legends Fairport Convention are at Bilston's Robin 2 celebrating half a century of making music.

The line-up for this seated show includes Simon Nicol, Dave Pegg, Ric Sanders, Chris Leslie and Gerry Conway. Support comes from impressive young Black Country bluesman Sunjay.

Welsh prog rockers Panic Room take over the venue for the rest of the weekend with a host of special guests.

Canadian country singer-songwriter Tia McGraff brings her Crazy Beautiful acoustic tour to the Mount Pleasant venue on Wednesday. See www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Strike musical's amateur premiere

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society will be offering the West Midlands amateur premiere of the former West End musical Made in Dagenham at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 28.

It's 1968 and women workers take on the bosses and a male dominated union at the Ford car plant in Dagenham after a pay cut is imposed on them.

Rachel Davies, from Stourbridge, plays strike leader Rita, with John Wetherall as her husband Eddie in the show, which features some strong language.

For tickets from £16 to £22, call 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk website.

Double bill starts gallery sessions

A CONCERT series begins at a new venue in Wolverhampton tomorrow evening (Friday) with The Songwriter Sessions at the city art gallery's cafe bar.

The emphasis will be on musicianship and songwriting talent in an intimate environment at the Lichfield Street gallery.

The series begins with a double bill of Wolverhampton's Gary O'Dea and former Wolverhampton University student Alex Vann. Singer and guitarist O'Dea has won acclaim for his album Fly. Vann recently released the fourth of his Silhouettes & Pirouettes collections of songs. Tickets £5.50 on the door at 7.30pm or call 0870 320 7000.

CHOICE

Benedict Cumberbatch

The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses – Richard III
(BBC2, 9pm)
The country seems to be finally at peace under under the rule of Edward IV and the House of York. However, a new threat emerges from within the King's own family, as his ruthless younger brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester, sets plans in motion to take the throne for himself. Beginning by arranging the imprisonment of unsuspecting middle brother George, Richard manipulates and murders all who stand in his way. As he rises in power, the Duke of Richmond raises an army to overthrow him, leading to the final battle of the Wars of the Roses. Last in the series. Benedict Cumberbatch, Judi Dench, Ben Daniels and James Fleet star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Jimmy Hill – A Man for All Seasons. (R) **2.00** FA Cup: The Road to Wembley. (R) **2.35** A Question of Sport. (R) **3.10** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **4.00** BBC News. **4.10** Regional Programme. **4.15** Match of the Day Live – The 2016 FA Cup Final. Crystal Palace v Manchester United (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.50 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. The lively comedian introduces music by Katherine Jenkins and a performance by stage mentalist Colin Cloud. Plus, Robbie Savage hands over his mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All.

8.35 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

8.45 Casualty. Dylan receives a nasty surprise when Bryan turns up at the ED, having cut his hand smashing a window after locking baby Rihanna in his car. While Bryan apologises for his past behaviour, Dylan is not so sure he can ever change. Connie discovers Jacob and Elle are old friends, and the pair are given a chance to catch up while dealing with injuries at the scene of a factory accident. However, when Elle starts asking strange, probing questions about the status quo at Holby, it becomes there is an ulterior motive behind her recent arrival. Meanwhile, Charlie encourages David to be more confident, and Big Mac lies to Noel about seeking help with his addiction.

9.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R)

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle. Including clips of the comedian reminiscing about his school holidays, the Phoenix club's singles night and the meeting between Geraldine McQueen and Paul McCartney. (R)

10.55 Match of the Day – 2016 FA Cup Final Highlights; National Lottery Update.

11.30 Film: Dream House. (2011)

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Women's Football Show. (R) **6.40 Film:** The Story of GI Joe. (1945) **8.30 Film:** The Wooden Horse. (1950) **10.10** Natural World. (R) **11.00** FA Cup Classics. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00 Film:** I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.00** Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. (R) **4.00** Swimming: European Championships. Helen Skelton presents live coverage from London.

6.00 This Week's World. Current affairs magazine show in which Emily Maitlis dissects current global problem affecting people's everyday lives, from energy to the economy and worldwide living standards.

6.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don plants up containers for his jewel garden, Carol Klein identifies plants able to survive in cracks and crevices, and Zephaniah Lindo meets a fellow primula enthusiast. (R)

7.00 Choose the Right Puppy for You. Part two of two. Kate Humble discovers the truth about different breeds of dog, while behaviourist Louise Glazebrook helps more people find the perfect dog for them. (R)

8.00 Grand Tours of Scotland. New series. Paul Murton travels round the Isle of Arran, visiting the famous King's Cave, Lochranza, Brodick Castle and Kildonan before ending his trip at Cleat's Store.

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and the platoon welcome the first American troops to Walmington-on-Sea, but Anglo-US relations become strained. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.00 The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses – Richard III. The country is finally at peace under the rule of Edward IV and the House of York – but the ruthless Duke of Gloucester plots to seize the throne for himself. Last in the series.

11.10 Film: Last Chance Harvey. (2008) A miserable New Yorker falls for an equally unfulfilled woman he meets while in London to attend his daughter's wedding. Romantic drama, starring Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

12.40 Film: Elena. (2011) **2.20** This Is BBC Two. **5.35** The Great Chelsea Garden Challenge. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.05** ITV News; Weather.; **12.14** Regional Programme. **12.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** BBQ Champ. (R) **2.20 Film:** Hulk. (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana. **4.55** The Wine Show.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a possessed toddler and a driver chasing a runaway car.

7.00 Bang on the Money. Game show in which two teams from Middlesbrough and Cleethorpes aim to hit a specific target number in a series of physical and mental challenges.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the final round of auditions before the nationwide talent contest moves on to the next stage, the Judges' Decisions. One last selection of would-be stars demonstrate their signature skills to Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams, in the hope of securing a place among the acts seeking a place in the semi-finals. However, there are no Golden Buzzers left to send promising stars straight through to the finals, so even the most eye-catching acts will have to fight for a place in the semi-finals.

9.15 Play to the Whistle. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show, with guests Piers Morgan, Danny Cipriani and Katherine Ryan joining the regulars. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: Run Fat Boy Run. (2007) A man who regrets leaving his fiancee standing at the altar tries to prove his love for her by running a marathon. Romantic comedy, with Simon Pegg.

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, Goodwood and York. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.30** Homes by the Med.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs: Living in the City. Kevin McCloud presents one of four special programmes inspired by 15 years of Grand Designs. He begins with a look at the challenges of self-building in the city, where space is at a premium and architects have to be at their most ingenious. Kevin uses footage from the best urban builds from the show over the years, meets pioneers at the forefront of the latest architectural thinking and looks at clever innovations that continue to transform people's lives to reveal which designs work best and why. (R)

8.00 Jutland: WWI's Greatest Sea Battle. Re-examining the events of the First World War naval battle, as the grandson of the admiral who led the British forces tries to salvage his grandfather's reputation.

9.00 Film: The Hunger Games. (2012) A totalitarian future-America holds an annual nationally televised event in which two children from each of its regions fight to the death until only one remains. A teenage girl takes her younger sister's place in the games and must pit her wits against the deadly combat skills of her rivals. Sci-fi adventure based on Suzanne Collins' novel, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Elizabeth Banks.

11.50 Film: Savages. (2012) Two marijuana dealers attract the attention of a Mexican drug cartel that kidnaps their shared girlfriend. Crime drama, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson.

2.05 Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** The Three Day Nanny. (R) **5.05** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Stewart and Vic experience one of the most violent cases they have ever faced when they are confronted by an angry older gentleman. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the third day of the First Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes.

8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles. Three men stage a raid on a drug deal, taking a suitcase full of cash and killing the dealer and an undercover LAPD officer. While studying footage taken from CCTV equipment in the house, Sam recognises the distinctive hand signals of one of the suspects as being those of Navy Seal Kurt Holgate, who he served with in Bosnia. Eric studies the details of his unit and finds that a man called Jackson has been unaccounted for since the day of the attack. (R)

9.00 NCIS. Gibbs and the team investigate when the first openly gay Navy lieutenant set to receive the Medal of Honour is murdered.

9.55 NCIS: New Orleans – Murder in the Bayou. Double bill. When the body of a former agent washes ashore in New Orleans, Gibbs believes the murder could be linked to a case the victim had previously worked on. DiNozzo, McGee and the FBI continue to track political connections to the case of the murder of a former agent, while Bishop sends DiNozzo a souvenir.

11.30 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. The body of a Toronto property broker is found in a utility closet at her office, and one of her colleagues suggests police turn their attention to a former maintenance worker. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** BAMMA 25: Champion vs Champion.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Francesco's Venice **8.00** The World's Most Expensive Stolen Paintings **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** BBC: The Secret Files 2 **11.30** Rod Stewart at the BBC **12.30** Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.50** Rod Stewart at the BBC **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.20 Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got More Talent **1.40** Catchphrase **2.20** Scorpion **3.15 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **5.05 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **7.20 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.20** @ elevenish **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.30 Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **2.50** Foyle's War **4.50** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Trial & Retribution **1.05** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 Pawn Stars **12.00 Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **2.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Berlin ePrix. **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.00 Film:** The Appaloosa (1966) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** The Appaloosa (1966) **7.00 Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **9.50** River Monsters **10.50 Film:** State of Play (2009) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** State of Play (2009) **1.15** Hell on Wheels **2.10** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00 Film:** Leap Year (2010) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Attack the Block (2011) **10.45** Gogglebox **12.55** The Inbetweeners **1.55** Rude Tube **2.50** Gogglebox **3.45** Rules of Engagement **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.55** Revenge

Film4
11.00 The Dark Crystal (1982) **1.00** Hairspray (2007) **3.15** Sword of Sherwood Forest (1960) **4.55** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **6.40** Tootsie (1982) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) Comedy, starring Kristen Wiig. **11.30** Case 39 (2009) **1.40** Boomerang (1992) **4.00** Close

School Holidays!

Don't leave it until the last minute...

Did you know there are lots of fun activities and events available for you and your family to enjoy during the school holidays in Sandwell, including activities and events for children with disabilities?

At work? You can also find out what playschemes and childcare is available in your area.

To plan your school holiday fun or for further information visit

www.sandwell.gov.uk/holidays

or call **0121 569 4914.**

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Family Information Service

families first

CHOICE

Kenneth Branagh

Wallander (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Kenneth Branagh stars as the world-weary Swedish detective in a fourth and final series of adaptations of Henning Mankell's novels. Wallander travels to Cape Town to investigate the disappearance of a Swedish woman. He uncovers a complex conspiracy behind the mystery, and is also confronted with a nation that has reached a turning point in its history. Bonnie Mbuli, Alex Ferns, John Kani, Tessa Jubber, Lemogang Tsipa, Jeany Spark, Deon Lotz, Tumisho Masha also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.25** Match of the Day – 2016 FA Cup Final Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Lose Weight for Love. (R) **3.30** Nature's Epic Journeys. (R) **4.30** Lifeline. **4.40** Points of View. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. A special episode for National Vegetarian Week, in which Matt Baker visits Jersey during the Royal Potato Harvest and Ellie Harrison creates a landscape photograph with vegetables. Naomi Wilkinson samples some Indian vegetarian recipes, sheep farmer Gareth Wyn Jones and free runner Tim Shieff debate the pros and cons of veganism, and Adam Henson visits an underground urban farm. Plus, Tom Heap investigates why many vegetable growers face going out of business. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team visits Tredegar House near Newport in Wales, where items include a tapestry woven in tribute to Status Quo, a frog-shaped brooch and an intricately carved coconut. (R)

9.00 Wallander. New series. Kenneth Branagh stars as the world-weary Swedish detective in a fourth and final series of adaptations of Henning Mankell's novels. Wallander travels to Cape Town to investigate the disappearance of a Swedish woman. He uncovers a complex conspiracy behind the mystery, and is also confronted with a nation that has reached a turning point in its history.

10.30 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner hosts an extended edition as Jonathan Ross, Michael Vaughan and Sara Pascoe try to persuade him to banish their least favourite things to the infamous room. (R)

11.40 Athletics: Diamond League Rabat Highlights.

12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 This Farming Life. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile Spring Special. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Live Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Coverage of the 14th staging of the event. **1.00 Film:** Custer of the West. (1967) Historical biopic about the life of the controversial American cavalry commander who met his end at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. With Robert Shaw, Mary Ure and Jeffrey Hunter. **3.15** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Swimming: European Championships. Live coverage of the final day.

6.00 Athletics: Great Manchester Run Highlights. Action from the 14th annual staging of the 10k race, as elite athletes and thousands of fun runners competed. With commentary by Steve Cram, Paula Radcliffe and Andrew Cotter.

7.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The Red Arrows mark the end of an era as they appear in a succession of airshows, including events where they fly alongside a Vulcan bomber and a Chinook helicopter. The pilots have to undergo gruelling underwater training before they can appear at a planned display in Blackpool, but it seems that the performance may be grounded as a result of high winds. (R)

8.00 World Cup 1966: Alfie's Boys.

9.30 Horizon: E-Cigarettes. Series examining topical scientific issues.

10.35 Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane and Arron Crascall go on adventures around the world, using a smartphone to gain the information they need to survive.

11.25 Later – with Jools Holland. Extended edition. Iggy Pop makes his debut on the show, performing tracks from his recent album Post Pop Depression. Plus, Lou Doillon, Protoje and Graham Nash. (R)

12.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile Spring Special. The team reports on signs of spring around the country, with Ellie Harrison monitoring pods of dolphins in Cardigan Bay and John Craven visiting a hay meadow in Wiltshire. (R) **1.25** Holby City. Zosia makes a gut-wrenching decision after overstepping the mark and accusing a patient of a media leak. Dominic faces his fears when he encounters someone with a painful past. (R) **2.25** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** FIA Formula E Championship. **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **1.45** Fierce. (R) **2.45** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** Live International Football.

7.30 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the first semi-final of this year's contest. The audition process is complete, and has left judges Amanda Holden, David Walliams, Simon Cowell and Alesha Dickson with 45 acts to pick and choose from. Tonight, nine of them will be performing live in the hope of impressing both the panel and the TV audience. The winner of tonight's viewers' vote will automatically go through to the live grand final, before the two runners up face the judges to decide which of them will also win a place.

9.00 Coronation Street. As the locals prepare for Carla and Nick's wedding, Johnny goes to extreme lengths to stop Tracy from ruining the big day, even if it means missing the chance to walk his daughter down the aisle.

9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. Ant and Dec announce the results of tonight's viewers' vote before the judges choose a second act to go through to the final. Featuring the cast of West End musical Motown.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 International Football Highlights. England v Turkey. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the friendly encounter, which took place at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester and served as a Euro 2016 warm-up for both countries.

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the semi-finals, which were Saracens v Leicester Tigers at Allianz Park and Exeter Chiefs v Wasps at Sandy Park.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Salvage SOS. **6.45** Salvage SOS. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30 Film:** Step Up. (2006) An aspiring ballerina and a street-smart teenager pair up for a dance project and love begins to blossom between them. Romantic drama, starring Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan. Edited for language and violence. **2.30 Film:** Evolution. (2001) Two science teachers battle rapidly evolving alien monsters brought to Earth by a mysterious meteor. Sci-fi comedy, starring David Duchovny, Orlando Jones and Julianne Moore. Edited for language. **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Penelope Keith's Favourite Villages. The actress travels around Britain visiting villages in different parts of the country, and discovering how people's attitudes have changed to these small communities.

8.00 Film: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. (2011) Seven English pensioners looking for a fresh start are drawn to an advert for a hotel in the Indian city of Jaipur, and plan to spend their retirement there. They arrive to find the building dilapidated but are won over by the enthusiastic young manager, and each embarks on their own adventures in the city. Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith and Dev Patel. Edited for language.

10.25 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.30 Film: Hitchcock. (2012) Fact-based drama about the making of Psycho, and the film's impact on Alfred Hitchcock's relationship with his wife and creative partner. With Anthony Hopkins.

1.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.40** Win It Cook It. Simon Rimmer and guest judge Matt Tebbutt compare chicken and meatball dishes. **4.05** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer head to Liverpool, where they help two women with different lifestyles find a home, and advise a student on how to get on the property ladder. (R) **5.05** Fifteen to One. Sandi Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz, in which 15 contestants test themselves against their rivals. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Now That's Funny! (R) **11.25 Film:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2. (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Bill Hader. **1.10** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. (R) **4.05 Film:** Pudsey the Dog: The Movie. (2014) Premiere. Family comedy, starring Jessica Hynes. **5.55** The Yorkshire Vet. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the fourth day of the First Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes.

8.00 Secrets of the Valley of the Kings.

9.00 Film: Sabotage. (2014) Premiere. The members of an elite Drug Enforcement Administration team secretly keep the millions of dollars they find during the raid. When they are killed off one by one, the leader becomes convinced one of his men is getting rid of the others to keep all the money, and sets out to expose the murderer. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sam Worthington. Edited for language.

11.05 Film: Under Siege. (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for broadcast.

12.55 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Police Interceptors. Paul Faulkner has a close shave with a stolen vehicle. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! Pleasure seekers get more than they bargained for at an amusement park. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Karajan's Myth and Magic **8.30** EastEnders **9.00** From EastEnders to Hollywood: Antonia Bird **10.30 Film:** Care (2000) **12.15** Horizon: The Core **1.15** Pop! The Science of Bubbles **2.15** Karajan's Myth and Magic **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.45 Take Me Out **1.00 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **2.55 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.00** Britain's Got Talent **6.15** Britain's Got More Talent **7.15 Film:** Hulk (2003) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25 Film:** Hulk (2003) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.45 Foyle's War **1.50 Film:** Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm (1973) **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Margery and Gladys **8.00** Rosemary & Thyme **10.00** Ghostboat **11.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.35** Blue Murder **2.25** May the Best House Win **4.10** On the Buses **5.00** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
9.00 Premiership Rugby Union **10.00 Film:** Raw Deal (1986) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** Raw Deal (1986) **12.10 Film:** Red Heat (1988) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15 Film:** Red Heat (1988) **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
1.00 Made in Chelsea **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.30 Film:** Maid in Manhattan (2002) **5.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** Daredevil (2003) **12.05** The Inbetweeners **1.05** The 100 **2.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.55** Rush Hour **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Faintheart (2008) **1.00** The Golden Compass (2007) **3.10** Marmaduke (2010) **4.55** Tooth Fairy (2010) **7.00** Just Married (2003) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) The victor in a televised battle to the death returns to the arena to face other past champions. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Liam Hemsworth. **11.50** House of Flying Daggers (2004) Officers are sent to locate a rebel threatening the Tang dynasty, and happen across a beautiful blind dancer. Martial arts adventure, starring Zhang Ziyi and Takeshi Kaneshiro. **2.10** Kelly + Victor (2012) **4.00** Close

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5, 12, 19 AUG	1, 8, 15, 22, 29 AUG	5, 12, 19 AUG
23, 30 SEP	5, 12, 19, 26 SEP	23, 30 SEP
21 OCT	3, 10, 24 OCT, 21 NOV	21 OCT

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Killer Switch, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman accidentally picks up the wrong suitcase from the airport baggage reclaim on her way to her daughter's graduation. Later, she receives a phone call from a man claiming he will harm her daughter if she fails to follow his instructions to return his suitcase. Thriller, starring Jamie Luner. (2016)

TUESDAY
Columbo: A Stitch in Crime, ITV, 11.45pm
A surgeon plans to get rid of his colleague in an experimental drug test, and when his fellow medic needs heart surgery, he performs the operation himself and discreetly arranges some fatal complications. However, when he also murders a nurse who suspects the truth, he attracts the attention of the slovenly sleuth. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, Leonard Nimoy and Will Geer. (1973)

I Love You, Man, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

WEDNESDAY
Dragonfly, BBC1, 11.45pm
A doctor uses work as a way of coping with his grief over the death of his pregnant wife – but when strange things begin to happen around him, he becomes convinced she is trying to contact him from beyond the grave. Supernatural drama, starring Kevin Costner and Kathy Bates. (2002)

THURSDAY
Reluctant Witness, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Erin believes that she has left her Mob ties behind after being placed in a witness protection programme. However, the man she thought she had killed turns up under an assumed identity and bent on revenge, meaning she must protect her new life and her family. Thriller, starring Mia Kirshner. (2014)

FRIDAY
I Love You, Man, BBC1, 11.50pm
As he prepares for his wedding, estate agent Peter realises there is something missing – a male friend, which he doesn't have, to be his best man. His quest for a suitable candidate leads him to laid-back, hard-drinking Sydney and the pair become inseparable buddies – to the horror of Peter's fiancee. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Jason Segel. (2009)

Sisters are hoping to rise to the challenge

Let's face it, we'd all love to be able to have our cake and eat it – but is that really possible?

When it comes to healthy eating, sisters Jasmine and Melissa Hemsley claim it is, and now they are trying to teach us all how do it via this series, which began a couple of weeks ago.

Over the years, many TV chefs have attempted to teach us how to prepare low-calorie and low-fat versions of our favourite recipes, and while we may start out with good intentions, we have a tendency to fall back into our old ways before long, perhaps because some of the ideas they have adopted are too complicated or involve ingredients we either don't have lying around or are impossible to get at your average supermarket.

But the Hemsley girls are different. There's nothing weird about their cookery lessons, but the results are rather wonderful.

Their aim isn't to blind us with science, but rather to teach their fans how to develop a good relationship with food while instructing them in the fine art of gut health.

They learnt their trade by catering for such starry clients as Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Vivienne Westwood, and are now devoted to preparing food that is natural, satisfying and easy to digest, and which doesn't involve gluten, grains and refined sugar; what's more there's no compromise when it comes to flavour.

The sisters are photogenic, so it should come as no surprise that they've landed this programme. In fact, the only shock is that it's taken them so long to get their own show; it's six years since they began their own business.

"We're delighted to be working with Jasmine and Melissa and bringing their inspiring brand of healthy living to a wider audience," says Andrea Olsonn, Channel 4's head of factual entertainment and the series' executive producer. "The Hemsleys are a perfect fit for our slate and roster of passionate talent with global appeal."

The ladies themselves were certainly thrilled by the idea of being able to reach more people than ever before: "Our mouths are watering at the prospect of sharing these tasty, healthy and easy to make recipes with Channel 4's viewers!" said Jasmine at the show's launch, while Melissa added: "I can't wait to see our readers' reaction to our new TV show and this is a fantastic opportunity for us to reach out to a wider audience."

The first episode saw them prepare perfect dishes for sharing with friends, including huevos rancheros with guacamole, slow-cooked lamb with anchovies, and a chocolate dessert.

Last week, they did something seemingly impossible – they turned the usually calorie-packed great British fry-up into a healthy meal before turning their attention to a Filipino dish and a ragu.

This time around, the culinary magicians will demonstrate how to bake gluten-free treats by using alternatives to traditional flour such as ground almonds and coconut flour. They also meet two urban beekeepers in London while on the lookout for a sweet substitute for sugar.

Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley, Monday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Secrets of the Nazi Occult
Channel 5, 9pm
Documentaries about the Nazis and their activities are not exactly thin on the ground – stick a pin in any given week and you can usually hit at least one or two tucked away in the TV schedules. While the majority of them seem to cover the same, most obvious areas of study, this one promises to be a little more leftfield. It examines the theory that many members of the Nazi high command, including both Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, were members of a secret society that held top secret meetings and rituals at Wewelsburg Castle in Germany. It sounds like the plot for the next Indiana Jones movie, but evidence suggesting that occult practices were at play is compelling.

TUESDAY
The KKK: Behind The Mask
Channel 5, 9pm
Founded in 1866 in Pulaski, Tennessee, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) extended into almost every southern state by 1870 and despite not having a well-organised structure or clear leadership, it grew to become the most notorious white supremacist group in America. At its peak in the 1920s it had over four million members, but today it's a shadow of its former self. However, KKK marches, cross burnings and racial hatred continue in the Deep South states. This eye-opening and stark documentary profiles today's Klan members, examines the impact the group has had on American society over the last 150 years, and asks the question: is the country is heading for a new race war?

WEDNESDAY
Boris v Dave: The Battle for Europe
Channel 4, 9pm
Michael Crick outlines how the ongoing EU Referendum battle between Vote Leave and Britain Stronger in Europe is not only a crusade to determine the UK's future in Europe, but also an intensely personal skirmish between two of Britain's most high-profile politicians. As fellow Tories, former London mayor Boris Johnson and Prime Minister David Cameron are ostensibly allies, but the pair have a long and storied history dating back through their time at Oxford, as members of the exclusive Bullingdon Club, to their shared childhood at Eton. Making use of interviews with both men's friends, family and political foes, Crick sets out to tell the story of their very public duel, which looks set to define both a nation's future, and the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Boris v Dave: The Battle for Europe, Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY
How Should I Vote? – The EU Debate
BBC1, 8pm
Victoria Derbyshire hosts a live debate from Glasgow on the issues that matter to young voters ahead of the June 23 referendum on whether or not the UK should stay in the European Union. An audience of voters under the age of 30 from all over the UK will put their questions and concerns direct to a panel of senior politicians central to the campaigns to Leave or Remain in the EU, while viewers can also raise their points and put questions through social media.

The Truth About Alcohol
BBC1, 9pm
Doctor Javid Abdelmoneim explores the science behind drinking alcohol, including why the weekly recommended intake was lowered in January, with the men's limit cut by a third to 14 units per week. He also asks whether a nightcap can aid sleep, why some people get drunk quicker than others, and probes the new evidence for the health risks posed by alcohol. Plus, he investigates what is behind the relatively healthy reputation of red wine and whether lining your stomach before drinking really does work and lessen the effects of a night out.

FRIDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm
England v Australia (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the friendly match, which takes place at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland and serves as a Euro 2016 warm-up for England. Roy Hodgson's side breezed through their qualifying group for this summer's tournament in France, winning all 10 of their games to finish as the only country with a 100 per cent record. The manager will be hoping his squad can continue that excellent form at the finals, and will also be looking for a strong performance in this match against Ange Postecoglou's men. With analysis from Ian Wright and Lee Dixon, and commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle.

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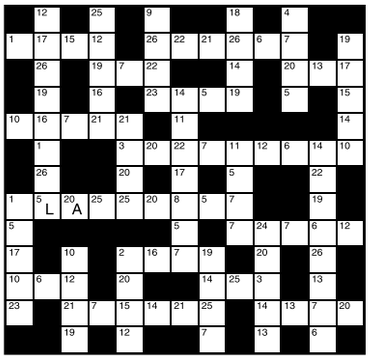
BRAIN GYM No.378

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 L	18
6	19
7	20 A
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	X	I	M	K	B	O	F	P	Q	H	V	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	W	G	L	D	N	Y	U	S	E	T	A	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

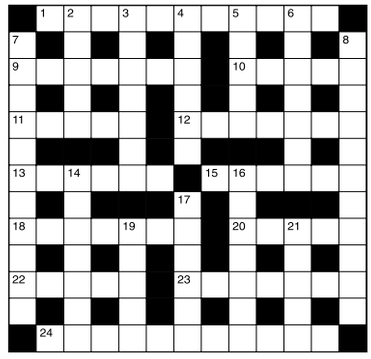
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Used for making up a strange pie (11)
9. Streams of invective one gets in some professions (7)
10. Illicit photograph? (5)
11. Man-made product found in many London stores (5)
12. A red tongue (7)
13. Reply some Americans were hoping for (6)
15. Pat may speak it or wear it (6)
18. He makes his mark at times (7)
20. The smallest type of slate (5)
22. Mince pies having a brown colour (5)
23. A painstaking preparation? (7)
24. Bert at speed becomes splashed with mud (11)

Down

2. In Peru rallies are held in the country (5)
3. Term in music, and type of bet (7)
4. Possibly run and see to make certain (6)
5. Girls lose their heads – the fools! (5)
6. Driving a point home? (7)
7. This order won't require attention (5,2,4)
8. Silent dance arranged in secret (11)
14. A high point of religious architecture (7)
16. Be as bad as ever about a mistake (7)
17. It may be played when not in form (6)
19. Seagoing vagabond (5)
21. Possibly eager to correspond (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Diligence (11)
9. Desert (7)
10. Female relative (5)
11. Boredom (5)
12. Graceful (7)
13. Infuriate (6)
15. Plan (6)
18. Type of raisin (7)
20. Light purple (5)
22. Swift (5)
23. Oriental (7)
24. Spy (6,5)

Down

2. Evident (5)
3. Accommodation (7)
4. Annul (6)
5. Taut (5)
6. Intimidate (7)
7. Flexible rule (4,7)
8. Vane (11)
14. Fall back (7)
16. Vocation (7)
17. Empty (6)
19. Viper (5)
21. Ancient language (5)

Sudoku

	2		9	8				4
6					2	9		
				5		8		2
	4		8			3		
		5		9		1		
	6	9			4		2	
4		1		6			5	
		2		4		6		7
5				1	7		8	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	2	9	4	5	1	7	6	3
4	6	3	2	8	7	9	1	5
1	7	5	3	6	9	8	4	2
9	3	2	8	4	6	1	5	7
7	5	4	1	3	2	6	9	8
6	1	8	9	7	5	3	2	4
5	4	6	7	9	8	2	3	1
3	8	1	6	2	4	5	7	9
2	9	7	5	1	3	4	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Skittles; 5 Form; 9 Coma; 10 Idolater; 11 Skein; 12 Run down; 13 Trial and error; 18 Assuaged; 19 Cuff; 20 Neptune; 21 Lions; 22 Rode; 23 Stranded. Down: 2 Knocker; 3 Tsarina; 4 Endurance test; 6 Outdoor; 7 Mariner; 8 Glance; 13 Trainer; 14 Insipid; 15 League; 16 Ruction; 17 Offence. QUICK - Across: 1 Appendix; 5 Heal; 9 Fret; 10 Strategy; 11 Alter; 12 Nominal; 13 Exceptionally; 18 Confound; 19 Send; 20 Special; 21 Begun; 22 Dull; 23 Symmetry. Down: 2 Perplex; 3 Extreme; 4 Intentionally; 6 Eternal; 7 Loyalty; 8 Layman; 13 Excused; 14 Congeal; 15 Profit; 16 Austere; 17 Languor.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which royal gave birth to Columbus in 1994?
2. Within which present-day country is the ancient Sumerian city of Ur?
3. Of what nationality was former UN secretary-general U Thant?
4. Which Chinese philosophical terms mean 'dark' and 'bright'?
5. Which river forms 1,500 miles of the US-Mexican border?
6. What was the pen name of the novelist Marie Henri Beyle?
7. Who preceded Peter Mandelson as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland?
8. Who wrote The Railway Children in 1906?
9. Which Church's doctrine is set out in the Thirty-Nine Articles?
10. Which Greek herald lost a shouting contest with Hermes?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Rudolf Hess; 2 Tahiti; 3 Whooping cough; 4 American football; 5 Superman; 6 Ear; 7 Cleopatra; 8 Turkey; 9 Four Weddings and a Funeral; 10 Volleyball.

Niner: UNMATCHED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3451 gives a girl's name,
21769 gives a second girl's name,
845461 gives a third girl's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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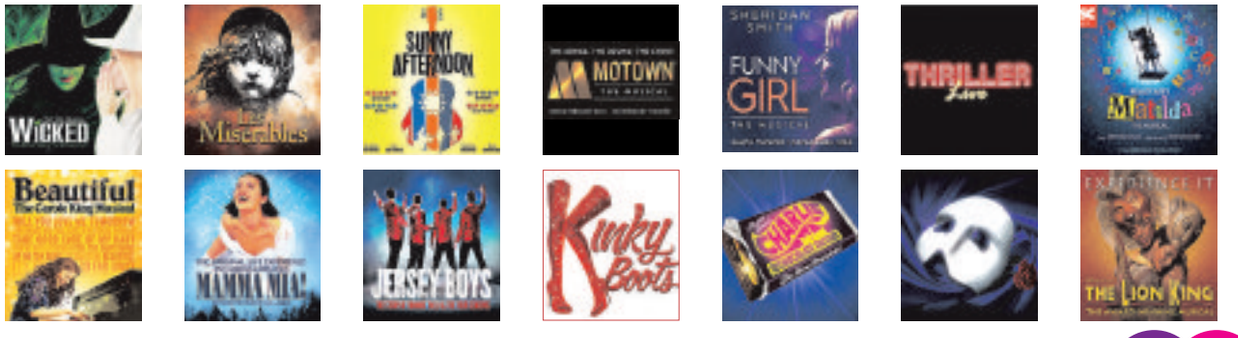
For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.



DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Book a visit – The Bronte Parsonage, Haworth, West Yorkshire

Write on – the newly refurbished Mr Bronte's study

Storytime – a family in the garden at Hill Top, near Sawrey, Lake District

Peter Rabbit and friends at The World of Beatrix Potter

Booking in for anniversary of two of literature's great female figures

By Nicholas McAvaney

TWO of English literature's great female figures, Beatrix Potter and Charlotte Bronte, are commemorated with anniversaries this year.

We travel north to find out more. Wandering around the Lake District's World of Beatrix Potter Attraction, I quickly forget I've ever grown up.

Children and parents are lost in Beatrix's delightful imaginary world, so perfectly illustrated in her books. I traipse through a reconstruction of the Peter Rabbit garden with glee, spying Jemima Puddle-Duck and a bronze statue of three children unveiled by Renee Zellweger in 2006.

The Windermere attraction is gearing up to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Beatrix's birth with a series of events, including a live-action show of her stories performed during the summer months.

In fact, attractions all over the region have plans to honour the early 20th century children's author.

Continuing my journey across Lake Windermere, I stop at the Beatrix Potter Gallery in Hawkshead where originals of her intricate watercolour illustrations are on display.

The inspiration for many of her stories was her beloved home Hill Top, in nearby Sawrey. Here I learn some intriguing facts about the author who I had always presumed was a kind old lady, fond of children and animals.

She was in fact a shrewd businesswoman and her books were merely a revenue stream to acquire and maintain a sizeable real estate portfolio in the Lake District. She eventually bequeathed a number of the properties to the National Trust in her will.

Copies of Beatrix's stories have been carefully placed around the house, bookmarked at pages where a room or items in it feature. Returning to the grown-up world, my journey ends at the adjacent Tower Bank Arms, a pub owned by the National Trust but managed independently. The manager gives me a lengthy spiel about the wide range of ales available.

Quaint

Moving on . . . strolling along Haworth's main street, I stop every few metres for a photo of the quaint stone shop fronts and postcard-worthy views over the Yorkshire Moors. I find it hard to imagine the village was once a crowded industrial town and a cesspool of death and disease during the early 19th century period, when English literature's great Bronte sisters lived here. At that time, the average age of death was 24. The girls' father, Patrick, played a pivotal role in helping clean up the village's water supply. But his own children failed to benefit, as they passed away before him.

His valiant efforts are documented at the Bronte Parsonage, the Bronte's former family home, now a museum. I visit to find out more about the tragedy-tinged lives of Charlotte, Emily, Anne and their brother Branwell.

It's 200 years since Charlotte was born, and a special exhibition aims to further explore her life. Each night the sisters would meet at the dining table to comment on each other's work. Their portable writing tables are on display, along with the chair on which Emily succumbed to illness in 1848, only 12 months after her only novel, Wuthering Heights, was published.

Visit: classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Six-bedroomed detached house is full of character

The Manse, 1 Hydes Road, Wednesbury, is a unique period style six-bedroomed detached house full of character and charm.

Boasting a wealth of period features, the property offers spacious living accommodation throughout and is set on a generous corner plot, being for sale through Connells at £450,000.

The ground floor has entrance porch with a door leading to a hallway with doors in turn leading to all three spacious reception rooms.

The great sized breakfast/kitchen has a utility room with doors leading to a downstairs shower room. The first floor comprises four double bedrooms, a family bathroom with another separate WC and stairs leading to the second floor.

The second floor comprises two further double bedrooms and a wash room. Outside of the property has secured gated off road parking leading to a block paved driveway with a 24ft x 18ft double garage and further 16ft x 10ft workshop.

The gardens have a lawned area with mature borders and shrubs, a patio area and a gated side access.

In more detail the superb entrance hall has stairs leading to the first floor.

All three reception rooms have a gas fire and bay windows.

The kitchen is an irregular shaped room, having a range of units and work surfaces, an oven with a separate grill and gas hob with stainless steel hood over, and a door leading to the side of the property with steps leading to a utility room.

As well as a downstairs shower room there is a rear hallway. Three of the four first floor bedrooms have wooden flooring and are served by the bathroom and separate WC. The two second floor bedrooms have a wash room with a WC.

KEY FEATURES

- Character accommodation over three floors
- Spacious breakfast kitchen
- Secure gated off road parking
- Double garage
- Workshop

WEDNESBURY **£450,000**

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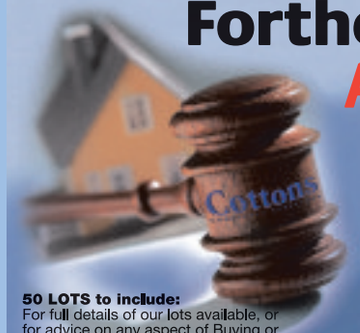

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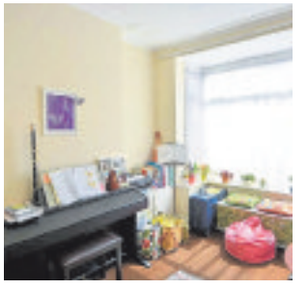
107 GORGE ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON



Two-bedroomed terraced house ideally suited to first-time buyers

BEARWOOD
£129,950 <<<

An ideal first time buy, this two-bedroomed terraced house in Reginald Road, Bearwood, is well presented throughout and comes with two double bedrooms.

A charming, traditional property, it is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £129,950 with no chain.

The house has a vestibule entrance, entrance hall, inner hallway, two reception rooms, vestibule entrance and hallway, modern upstairs bathroom with useful built-in storage and a rear garden.

The property is conveniently situated for the local High Street and the swimming centre.

Located within one mile are the grounds of Lightwoods Park while Warley Woods and Golf Course are within 1.5 miles.

Contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

Four-bedroom home is close to city centre

BIRMINGHAM
£260,000

This detached property close to Birmingham City Centre sits in the quiet cul-de-sac, Shetland Close, Ladywood, off a small private road serving just four properties.

Having well proportioned accommodation, a side garage and mature L-shaped garden to the side and rear, it is for sale through Tom Giles at £260,000.

The house has a porch, reception hall, WC, under-stairs store, lounge, dining room and kitchen.

There is also a conservatory with a door to the garage, stairs from the entrance hall to the first floor landing, four bedrooms, storage cupboard bathroom with a disabled shower, central heating, double glazing and off-road parking.

For further information contact Tom Giles on 0121 5526171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk

This weekend, step inside two stylish new Showhomes.

CAMERON

The Lancaster

Typical interiors.

The Dendale Special
Computer generated images, details may vary.

Our two highly anticipated Keepers Cross Showhomes open this weekend! Join us between 11am and 5pm on Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd May to be among the first to explore.

The launch is a perfect opportunity to step inside the Lancaster and Dendale Special Showhomes and picture yourself enjoying one of our two, three or four-bedroom Tividale properties.

Our Sales Advisors will also be on hand to talk you through our part exchange packages, and explain how you could own a three-bedroom home from £140,000 with Help to Buy.

Following the launch, visit between **11am and 5pm**, seven days a week. Call **07341 569267** or email **keeperscross@cameronhomes.co.uk** for more information.

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Stylish, modern bungalow for the over 60s

This easily maintained two-bedroomed semi-detached modern bungalow in Harden Keep, Smethwick is specially designed for the over 60s.

With emergency pull switches to principal rooms, it is offered with a 95 per cent equity share in conjunction with Harden Housing Association.

It is for sale through £90,000.

SMETHWICK £90,000

Part of a secure development of similar homes, it has an entrance hall featuring tiled effect vinyl flooring and a lounge with a gas fire which is situated on a raised tiled hearth.

There is a kitchen with a steel sink unit with double base cupboard beneath, a further base cupboard, along with a tall larder unit and one four-drawer unit and three wall cupboards, worktops, plumbing for a washing machine, a central hallway, shower room and two bedrooms.

For more details, contact Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit www.derekspiresandco.com

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Photographs of typical showhome interiors and external of a Granby housetype. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. **Carpets available on selected plots reserved before 30th May 2016. Terms and conditions apply. †Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

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- No chain
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- Traditional end Terrace property
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- Double Glazing, GCH

OIRO £104,950

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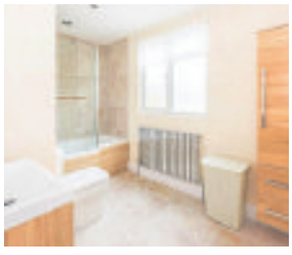
Impressively extended semi-detached house

TIPTON
£120,000

This impressive extended and improved traditional semi-detached house in a sought after area in Lindley Avenue, Tipton, has good family accommodation.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £120,000 with no chain.

Well presented and decorated out in neutral shades and with double glazing and gas central heating it has a small block paved frontage, reception hall, lounge/dining room with a bay window at one end and patio doors opening to the rear at the other end. There is a modern fitted breakfast kitchen, three good-sized bedrooms, bathroom with a modern white suite and fully tiled walls and flooring, driveway and a rear garden. Contact Paul Dubberley on 0121 5223733 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk



Unique property with a large bespoke kitchen on the market

OLDBURY
£390,000 <<<

A unique property, having a beautiful large bespoke kitchen in Hadzor Road, Oldbury, has four bedrooms and a large landscaped garden with two summer houses.

Having a quality finished making it unrivalled within the area, it is for sale through Connells at offers in excess of £390,000. It has a porch, an entrance hallway with solid oak staircase off and wooden flooring, a carpeted lounge and an open plan dining/living room with French doors to the rear and wooden flooring.

There is a carpeted living room with a bay window, a kitchen with two ovens, built-in microwave oven, a five-burner gas hob and an integrated dishwasher, an island, downstairs shower room, four bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom, gardens and a garage. Contact Connells on 0121 4203611 or visit www.connells.co.uk

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Pargeter Road, BEARWOOD,

Mid terraced property comprising, vestibule, two reception rooms, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom with separate shower, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens

Offers Around £182,950

Parsons Hill, OLDBURY,

Semi detached property comprising, hallway, reception room, re-fitted breakfast/kitchen, conservatory, cloakroom, three bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens, driveway.

Offers Around £157,950

Ascot Close, OLDBURY,

Semi detached property with accommodation briefly comprising lounge, kitchen / diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking and car port, Double glazing and gas central heating where specified.

Offers Around £129,950

Thurce Road, BEARWOOD,

Set over three floors comprising of Porch, Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Five Bedrooms, Six Piece Bathroom, En Suite, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden, Gas Heating, Double Glazed, Well presented throughout.

Offers Around £299,950

Marion Road, SMETHWICK,

Extended family home comprising, through lounge, extended kitchen/diner, shower room, four bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £195,000

Durham Tower, BIRMINGHAM,

First floor apartment close to the City Centre. The property comprises of entrance hall, lounge, double bedroom, kitchen/diner, bathroom, electric heating and double glazing.

Offers Around £79,950

West Park Road, SMETHWICK,

Comprising, porch, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen/diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, refitted bathroom with separate shower, D/G and C/H, driveway, large rear garden.

Offers Around £255,000

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Dale Street, SMETHWICK,

End terraced property comprising, entrance hallway, three reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, upstairs WC, D/G and C/H, front garden, rear parking

Offers Around £125,000

Majuba Road, BIRMINGHAM,

Mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, spacious upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, rear garden.

Offers Around £105,000

Bentley Mill Lane, WALSALL,

Semi detached home comprising, porch, entrance hallway, through lounge, refitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, D/G and C/H, garage, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £134,950

Linden Road, BEARWOOD,

Mid terraced property comprising, hallway, Through lounge/diner, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £125,000

Aberdeen Street, BIRMINGHAM,

Mid town house comprising, vestibule entrance, reception room, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed where specified, driveway, front and rear gardens

Offers Around £84,950

Kenelm Road, OLDBURY,

Extended semi detached property comprising, porch, hallway, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, cloakroom, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, front and rear gardens, no onward chain

Offers Around £159,950

Lewisham Road, SMETHWICK,

End terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three good sized bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, rear garden, garage. NO ONWARD CHAIN!!!

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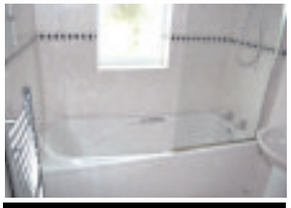
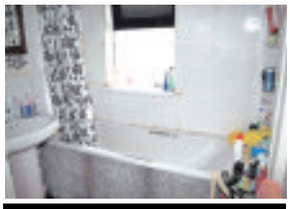


8 VALLEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Three Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Conservatory •Side Garage
- Neatly Laid Out Gardens
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £137,500

NEW

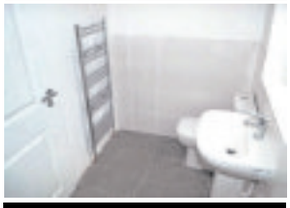


95 WALTON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Gardens To Front and Rear
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

NEW



25 SHERWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- 3 Bedrooms •Refitted Bathroom
- Hall With Original Minton Tiles
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Dining Room & Utility
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £210,000

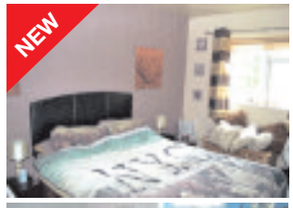
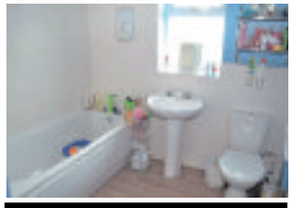
NEW

216 LONDONDERRY LANE, SMETHWICK

- Three Bedrooms & Shower Room
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Neatly laid Out Gardens
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON 159,950

NEW

80 THE UPLANDS, SMETHWICK

- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Loft Conversion
- Bathroom
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Garden

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

NEW

129 LONDONDERRY LANE, SMETHWICK

- Three Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Through Lounge
- Open Plan Dining Kitchen
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Utility/Laundry •Off-Street Parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £180,000

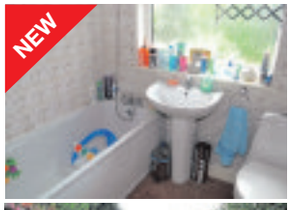
NEW

32 CAPETHORN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Front Lounge
- Rear Sitting Room
- Bathroom
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

NEW



64 CRAWFORD AVENUE, SMETHWICK

- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Tiled Bathroom
- Lounge & Extended Sitting Room
- Side Garage
- Off-Street Parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

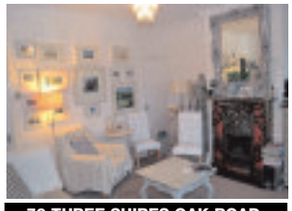
NEW

199 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Bathroom with Individual Shower Compartment
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950

NEW PRICE



79 THREE SHIRES OAK ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Fully Tiled Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen/Dining room •Utility
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £145,000

NEW PRICE

98 BUCKINGHAM ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

- Three bedrooms & Bathroom
- Separate W.C.
- Spacious lounge
- Dining room & Kitchen
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £106,950

65 LIGHTWOODS HILL, BEARWOOD

- 3 Bedrooms •Bathroom to 1st floor
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Conservatory and Study
- Off-street parking •Side Garage
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £315,950

53 MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD

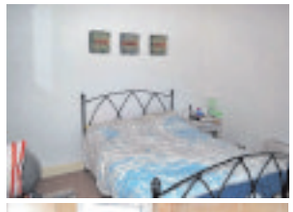
- PRIME LOCATION
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Fully Tiled Bathroom
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £189,950

77 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom to First Floor
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- An Ideal Family Home
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £172,500



76 REGINALD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Ideal FTBs
- Two double bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Kitchen
- Through lounge
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

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£129,950 <<<

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www.bartrams.com

TEMPLE MEADOWS ROAD, B71 4DF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Utility Areas
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£179,950

DAGGER LANE, B71 4BT

- A Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Freehold, EPC Rating D

£350,000

CHARLEMONT AVENUE, B71 3BY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Diner & Utility
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

£284,950

BROOKSIDE, WS10 0QF

- A Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Storage Heaters
- Allocated Parking
- Leasehold, EPC RATING D

£86,950

WITTON LANE, B71 2AQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Lounge & Dining Area
- Freehold

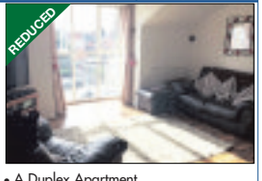
£149,950

LAW STREET, B71 1DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Freehold, EPC RATING F

£119,950

MONARCH COURT, WS10 9FD



- A Duplex Apartment
- Two Bedrooms / En -Suite
- Excellent Location for Commuting
- Ideal 1st Time Buy
- Leasehold, EPC Rating F

£94,950

KESTEVEN ROAD, B71 1JH

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C,
- Freehold

£159,999

CORPORATION STREET, WS10 9AJ

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

£94,950

HILL TOP, B70 0PS

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£122,500

Little Lane, West Bromwich
Only 4 Plots Remaining
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Pemberton Road, West Bromwich

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME
- FINISHED TO A HIGH STANDARD
- IN A QUIET LOCATION
- EPC RATNG: B

Offers in Excess of £179,950.00

Spon Lane, West Bromwich

NEW

- TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW
- PERFECT FOR FIRST FAMILY HOME
- TWO OFF ROAD PARKING SPACES
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £129,950.00

Hermitage Road, Edgbaston

NEW

- TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- WELL- PRESENTED
- TWO BALCONIES
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in excess of £120,000.00

Chester Road, Erdington

NEW

- GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- RECENTLY REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- CLOSE TO PYPE HAYES PARK
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in the Region Of £107,950.00

Regent Street, Smethwick

NEW

- IDEAL FOR INVESTORS / FIRST TIME BUYERS
- ONE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- GARDEN VIEWS
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in the Region Of £69,950.00

Wasperton Close, Birmingham

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- ON A LARGE CORNER PLOT
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £209,950.00

Ditta Drive, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM STUNNING DETACHED HOME
- SLEEK, MODERN INTERIORS
- GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in the Region Of £184,950.00

Kynance Grove, Bilston

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- NO CHAIN
- WELL MAINTAINED
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £144,950.00

St. Marks Road, Tipton

- IMMACULATE THREE BEDROOM HOME
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- EXTREMELY WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in the Region Of £119,950.00

Newland Road, Small Heath

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED PROPERTY
- LOFT CONVERSION WITH 4TH BEDROOM
- NEUTRAL DECOR THROUGHOUT
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £119,950.00

Amphlett Croft, Tipton

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- DOUBLE GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- LOCATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- EPC RATING: D

£279,950.00

St. Oswalds Road, Birmingham

- EXTENDED FOUR BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- TWO SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZED
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in Excess of £229,950.00

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- SEPERATE LARGE ANNEX
- CONSERVATORY AND OUTHOUSE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £209,950.00

Hellier Avenue, Tipton

- LOVELY THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- ON A LARGE PLOT OF LAND
- OFF ROAD PARKING WITH GARAGE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £159,950

Bird Brook Close, Darlaston

- THREE BEDROOM END OF TERRACED HOME
- LIVING ROOM OVERLOOKING REAR GARDEN
- BATHROOM WITH SEPARATE SHOWER
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £139,950.00

The Furlong, Wednesbury

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £114,950.00

Wellspring Gardens, Dudley

- TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT IN DUDLEY
- LARGE SPACIOUS ROOMS
- PRIVATE PARKING
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £109,950.00

Little Lane, West Bromwich

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED PROPERTY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- GROUND FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in the Region Of £109,950.00

Delingpole Walk, Cradley Heath

- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS / INVESTORS
- TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £99,950.00

Church Street, Oldbury

- ONE BEDROOM MAISONETTE
- NEAUTRAL MODERN DECOR
- IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in the Region Of £63,950.00

Hillcrest Road, Great Barr

- QUIET POPULAR LOCATION
- THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY

Monthly Rental Of £1,000.00

Tyburn Road, Erdington

- WORKING PROFESSIONALS ONLY
- AVAILABLE FOR 1ST JUNE 2016
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Monthly Rental Of £725.00

Wallows Road, Brierley Hill

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- MODERN KITCHEN WITH BREAKFAST/DINING
- LARGE FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- DOUBLE GLAZED & CENTRAL HEATING

Monthly Rental Of £550.00

New Street, Erdington

- FIRST FLOOR MODERN FLAT
- SECURED ENTRY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EPC RATING: C

Monthly Rental Of £550.00

Merlin Way, Castle Vale

- AVAILABLE FROM 1ST JUNE 2016
- WORKING PROFESSIONALS ONLY
- ONE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- BILLS INCLUDED

Monthly Rental Of £550.00

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NEW

ANDERSON ROAD, BEARWOOD

NO UPWARD CHAIN - IDEAL INVESTMENT or FIRST TIME buy. Having 2 reception rooms, 11ft kitchen & a downstairs bathroom. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms on first floor. LOVELY gardens to rear. UPVC double glazing fitted. CLOSE TO LIGHTWOODS PARK & WARLEY WOODS. EPC rating: E

BEARWOOD **£137,500**

NEW

ASHBOURNE ROAD, EDGBASTON

SPACIOUS intermediate terrace, CONVENIENT for gaining access to BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, with NO UPWARD CHAIN, dg & gch, offering lounge and SEPARATE dining room, 3 BEDROOMS (bed 3 access via bed 2), PLEASANT rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating tbc.

BEARWOOD **£124,950**

NEW

HICKORY DRIVE, EDGBASTON

Well presented GROUND FLOOR flat in CUL-DE-SAC position, with SPACIOUS 20ft LOUNGE/DINING AREA, kitchen, RE-FITTED bathroom, 2 DOUBLE bedrooms (with fitted wardrobes), PLEASANT communal gardens, GARAGE in separate block. DG. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E.

BEARWOOD **£120,000**

NEW

GRESHAM ROAD, OLDBURY

SPACIOUS intermediate terrace with GOOD SIZED rear garden, having lounge and SEPARATE dining room, FITTED kitchen (with oven/hob), downstairs bathroom, 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS. gch & dg. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating tbc.

BEARWOOD **£89,950**

NEW

HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD, HALESOWEN

MUCH IMPROVED & WELL PRESENTED semi-detached home with OFF ROAD PARKING, in SOUGHT AFTER neighbourhood. Having lounge, SEPARATE dining room, REFITTED kitchen & breakfast room/utility. 3 bedrooms, REFITTED shower room. Lawned rear garden GCH & UPVC DBG. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating: D.

QUINTON **£179,950**

NEW

HURST GREEN ROAD, HALESOWEN

NO CHAIN, Much improved MODERN, family home with SECURE GATED PARKING. Lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, d/s toilet. MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE, 2 further bedrooms and bathroom. REDECORATED throughout, NEW CARPETS & FLOORING. UPVC double glazing & gch. Rear garden with SUNNY ASPECT. EPC rating C.

QUINTON **£155,000**

NEW

WILLOW COPPICE, BARTLEY GREEN

MODERN home in CUL-DE-SAC location with CONSERVATORY to rear & GARAGE en-bloc. Having 11ft kitchen, with side utility area/passageway. 15ft lounge diner & 12ft conservatory. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom with WHITE SUITE. Lawn garden to rear. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: TBC

QUINTON **£155,000**

NEW

WESTBOURNE ROAD, HALESOWEN

NO CHAIN - Semi detached home in CUL-DE-SAC with SOUTHERLY ASPECT. Lounge, Kitchen diner, 3 bedrooms & bathroom. DRIVEWAY TO FRONT & rear garden. UPVC DBG & GCH (combi boiler) EPC rating: E

QUINTON **£149,950**

NEW

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY

NO UPWARD CHAIN - WELL PRESENTED home with rear access. 25ft lounge diner & 10ft kitchen to rear. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. Lawned rear garden with SOUTHERLY aspect. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing fitted. EPC rating: E

BEARWOOD **£149,950**

NEW

QUINTON ROAD WEST, QUINTON

WELL PRESENTED terraced home with BLOCKPAVED driveway to front giving off road parking for several vehicles. 13ft lounge & REFITTED 16ft kitchen diner. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom with bath & shower cubicle. Lawn garden to rear. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: F

QUINTON **£135,000**

NEW

WARSTON AVENUE, BARTLEY GREEN

NO CHAIN - Terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC location. 14ft Lounge/diner, kitchen & D/S WC. 3 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. Majority UPVC DG fitted & warm air heating. EPC rating: TBC

QUINTON **£100,000**

NEW PRICE

SOUTHFIELD ROAD, EDGBASTON

2 bedroomed end terraced property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, convenient for gaining access to BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, having 2 RECEPTION ROOMS, 2 good sized bedrooms, UPSTAIRS BATHROOM, rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD **£99,950**

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NEW

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Attractive Traditional End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Early Viewing is Essential
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £129,950

NEW

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Superb, Traditional Terrace
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Ideal Family Home
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £209,950

NEW

Thimblemill Road, Bearwood

- Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ideal First Purchase
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

NEW

Reginald Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ideal First Purchase
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £129,950

NEW

Bishopton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception Rooms
- Garage
- Ideal Family Home
- EP Rating E

Offered in the region of £209,950

Galton Road, Bearwood

EXCHANGED MAY! 100% of the asking price achieved.

Offers in the region of £219,950

Herbert Road, Bearwood

EXCHANGED MAY! 107% of the asking price achieved.

Offers in the region of £214,950

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Mr N Roslund

Harvest Road, Smethwick

COMPLETED MAY! 100% of the asking price achieved.

Offers in the region of £149,950

Bishopton Road, Bearwood

COMPLETED APRIL! 100% of the asking price achieved.

Offers in the region of £189,950

NEW

Wattis Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ideal 1st Purchase
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £134,950

NEW

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Most Attractive Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Excellent Access to Amenities
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £124,950

OPEN DAY

Norman Avenue, Harborne

- Open Day Saturday 21st May
- Viewing By Appointment Only
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- Five Bedroom Semi Detached
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

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Stephens court, Tipton

- Modern Detached
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- Gas Central Heating ● No Upward Chain
- 3 Bedrooms ● En suite, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £180,000
Viewing:

Dunkirk Avenue, West Bromwich

- Immaculate Middle Terrace
- Superb Spacious Family Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing:

Lichfield Street, Tipton

- Outstanding Ground Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Much Improved Accommodation
- Viewing recommended
- Lounge

Viewing

- Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Enclosed Driveway ● Good Size Rear Garden, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £70,000

Myrtle Terrace, Tipton

- Fully Renovated Traditional Semi Detached Bungalow
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central heating
- New and Improved Accommodation
- EPC Rating D

Viewing

- Lounge
- New Fitted Modern Kitchen ● Side Porch
- 2 Bedrooms
- New Modern Fitted Shower Room,

OFFERS AROUND: £116,000

Temple Way, Oldbury

- Modern Link-Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Good Location
- 3 Bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND: £139,995
Viewing:

Reeves Close, Tipton

- Great Size Modern Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Good Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- Downstairs Toilet
- Lounge ● Dining Room

Viewing

- Conservatory ● Fitted Kitchen
- 4 Bedrooms ● En Suite Shower Room ● Family Bathroom
- Side Garage ● Gardens,

OFFERS AROUND: £189,950

Avern Close, Tipton

- Modern Middle Terrace
- Gas Central Heating ● Upvc Double Glazing
- Superbly Improved Accommodation ● No Upward chain
- EPC Rating C

Viewing

- Garage
- Lounge ● Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms ● Modern Fitted Bathroom, Viewing recommended

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Clover Piece, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £112,000
Viewing:

CALL NOW FOR A FREE VALUATION

Bridge Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Requiring Updating
- Lounge, Dining Room
- , Kitchen Area

OFFERS AROUND: £100,000
Viewing:

Gads Lane, West Bromwich — NEW

- Detached House on large Plot
- 3 Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms
- , Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast room

OFFERS AROUND: £215,000
Viewing:

Millfields Road, West Bromwich

- New Build Detached
- 3 Bedrooms, en suite to master
- Guest Cloaks, Family Bathroom
- , Fitted Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £179,995
Viewing:

Church Vale, West Bromwich — NEW

- Upper floor Maisonette
- 2 Bedrooms
- Double Glazed, GCH
- , Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £92,500
Viewing:

Adelaide Avenue, West Bromwich — NEW

- 5 Bedroom End Terrace
- Porch, Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- , Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000
Viewing:

Lloyd Street, West Bromwich

- Unique Detached Property
- Located within Dartmouth Park
- 2 Bedrooms
- , Lounge, Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £200,000
Viewing:

Laurel Drive, Smethwick

- 50% Share (remaining 50% available if required)
- Mid Terraced
- 3 Bedrooms
- , Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £79,995
Viewing:

Bromford Lane, West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace House
- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception rooms
- , Kitchen, Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Kiniths Way, West Bromwich

- Extended Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Porch, Through hallway
- NO CHAIN, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £174,995
Viewing:

Hawkswood Drive, Wednesbury

- Modern Semi Detached Home
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge Incorporating Dining Space
- EPC Rating: C, Feature Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Westbourne Road, Wednesbury

- Upper Floor Maisonette
- One Double Bedroom
- Lounge & Kitchen
- , Bathroom With White Suite

OFFERS AROUND: £59,950
Viewing:

Somerset Crescent, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- Well Maintained Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms & Kitchen
- Energy Rating C, Shower Room With Separate WC

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Margaret Road, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Shower Room
- EPC Rating - E, Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Windmill Street, Wednesbury

- Spacious End Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms & Shower Room
- Dressing Area, Ground Floor Bathroom
- EPC Rating: E, Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £106,000
Viewing:

Longcroft Avenue, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- Modern Style Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Contemporary Style Kitchen
- EPC Rating - D, Through Lounge Incorporating

OFFERS AROUND: £180,000
Viewing:

Wheelwright Close, Wednesbury

- Modern Detached Residence
- Four Bedrooms (en-suite to master)
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Energy Rating C, Kitchen & Utility Area

OFFERS AROUND: £190,000
Viewing:

Burrs Drive, Wednesbury

- 50% Share, Modern 1st Floor Apartment
- Ground Floor, With Allocated Parking
- Two Bedrooms
- , Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £45,000
Viewing:

Galahad Way, Wednesbury

- Modern 1st Floor Apartment
- 100% Ownership
- Double Glazing (throughout)
- Energy Rating D, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £70,000
Viewing:

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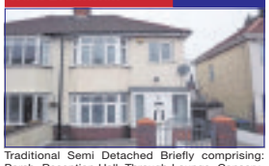
Whitgreave Street West Bromwich

COMING SOON NEWLY REFURBISHED END TERRACE Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Good Size Rear Garden. Shared Driveway
£675 pcm

Claypit Lane West Bromwich

Traditional Semi Detached Briefly comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Through Lounge, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Forecourt and Rear Garden.
£650 pcm

Clifton Lane West Bromwich

Semi Detached with a usefully modified with a downstairs fully fitted wet room and would suit a family with a need for this. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen. Utility area with wc.
£595 pcm

Wood Lane West Bromwich

End Terrace Residence, Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Front & Rear Gardens.
£550 pcm

Schofield Avenue West Bromwich

Semi Detached Residence UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating. Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking & Rear Garden.
£600 pcm

Halfords Lane West Bromwich

A well maintained 3 bedroom middle terraced Briefly Comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, fitted Kitchen/ dining room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking and enclosed rear garden.
£575 pcm

Church Lane West Midlands

Semi Detached briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Off Road Parking & Good Size Rear Garden.
£550 pcm

Wigginsmill Road Wednesbury

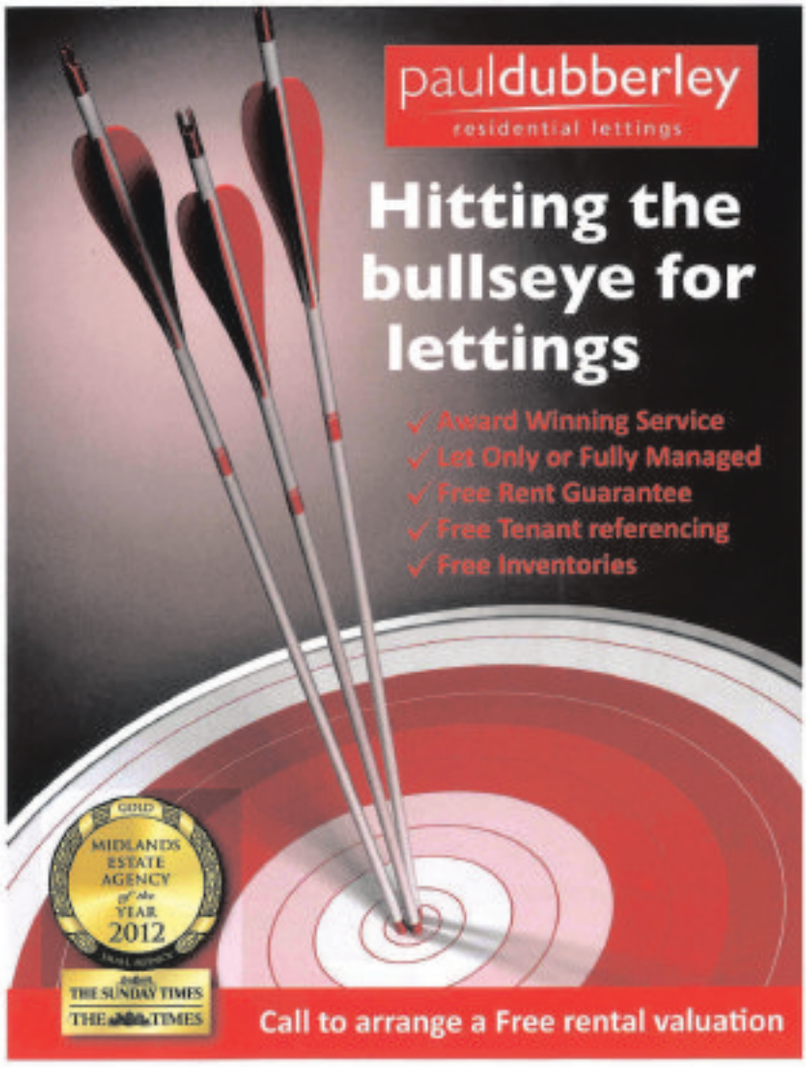
Well Presented Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, (1 on Ground Floor) Shower Room. Front Driveway
£650 pcm

Julie Croft Bilston

Semi Detached Residence briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens and Side Driveway.
£575 pcm

Potters Brook Tipton

Modern, One Bedroom, First Floor Apartment. The property benefits from central heating and double glazing and briefly comprises one bedroom, lounge, bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with built on
£425 pcm



Paul Street Wednesbury

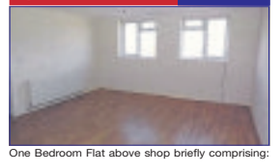
Traditional Semi Detached, Reception Hall, Through Lounge Diner, Conservatory, Modern well equipped Fitted Kitchen, Three Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with separate Shower Cubicle. Private
£625 pcm

Trouse Lane Wednesbury

WELL PRESENTED UPPER FLOOR APARTMENT Accommodation briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen with white Goods, Double Bedroom, Re Fitted Bathroom with shower,
£450 pcm

Salisbury House West Midlands

A studio apartment with Electric Heating & Double Glazing briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge / Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower Room & Communal Parking.
£350 pcm

Owen Street Tipton

One Bedroom Flat above shop briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom & Communal Parking at rear.
£400 pcm

Wedgbury Close Wednesbury

A Luxurious First Floor Apartment Briefly comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, master with en-suite Shower Room, Bathroom & Allocated Parking.
£550 pcm

Hurst Lane Tipton

Furnished Modern First Floor Apartment, briefly comprises of Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge / Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Allocated Parking Space.
£550 pcm

Dudley Road Tipton

Spacious Semi Detached briefly comprises, Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Through Lounge / Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, 3 Double Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom, Driveway & Rear Garden.
£600 pcm

Monins Avenue Tipton

Well Presented Purpose built first floor flat . The Property Briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Landing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom & Allocated Parking.
£425 pcm

Mytton Grove Tipton

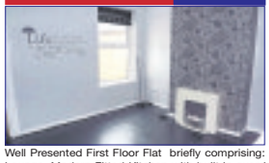
Modern Purpose Built Ground Floor briefly comprising, Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking and Communal Gardens.
£450 pcm

Wake Green Road Tipton

Purpose Built First Floor Flat Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Landing, Open Plan Lounge / Fitted Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom with Separate Toilet,
£350 pcm

Warren Close Tipton

Purpose Built First Floor Flat UPVc Double Glazing & Electric Heating briefly comprising: Entrance, Landing, Lounge, Re Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Double Bedroom & Re Fitted Bathroom.
£425 pcm

Toll End Road Tipton

Well Presented First Floor Flat briefly comprising: Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen with built in oven/ hob and Fridge, One Bedroom, Utility Room with built in freezer & Shower Room.
£425 pcm

Groveland Road Tipton

Modern First Floor Apartment Briefly comprising: Entrance Hallway, Open Plan Lounge / Fitted Kitchen with white goods, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom & Allocated Parking.
£425 pcm

Newcomen Drive Tipton

Impressive four bedroom modern executive detached, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Well equipped Modern Fitted Kitchen, Guest wc, 4 Bedrooms. En suite Shower Room,
£1,200 pcm

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A modern end-of-terrace house, 1 Astle Drive, Oldbury, lies in a quiet cul-de-sac and within walking distance of the town centre.

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Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest WC, a kitchen with beech finished units with contrasting working surfaces, a built-in dishwasher, washer/dryer, oven, four-plate gas hob and extractor, fridge/freezer and splashback and floor tiling.

The lounge has French doors; bedroom one is en suite and there are two further bedrooms and bathroom, a driveway and garage and garden.

For further information contact Tom Giles on 0121 5526171 or visit www.tomgiles.net

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NEW

OLDBURY

BOROUGH CRESCENT
A traditional semi-detached house situated in a convenient and popular residential location comprising porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, cloakroom, three bedrooms, attic playroom/storage bathroom. Central Heating & Double Glazing. Off road parking and private rear garden. EPC Rating TBC
Offers in the region of £139,950

LADYWOOD

SHETLAND CLOSE
A detached property situated close to Birmingham City Centre comprising porch entrance to reception hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory with door to garage, four bedrooms,, bathroom containing disabled shower, central heating, double glazing, side garage and off-road parking. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £260,000

SMETHWICK

NAREL SHARPE CLOSE
A recently re-decorated modern detached property comprising canopied front entrance into hallway, cloakroom, three reception rooms, kitchen, five bedrooms with ensuite off master, house bathroom, central heating, double glazing, side garage, front and rear gardens. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £239,950

OLDBURY

VICARAGE STREET
Semi-detached Victoriancomprising vestibule entrance into reception hall,through lounge, breakfast room, kitchen, lobby, bathroom, staircase to first floor with three bedrooms and shower room, staircase to second floor with fourth bedroom, central heating, double glazing, off-road parking to front and rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £215,000

ROWLEY REGIS

DUDLEY ROAD
A detached bungalow in need of general updating and improvement situated in a convenient location comprising reception hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, double glazing (where specified), central heating, off-road parking, garage and low maintenance rear garden. EPC Rating D.
Offers in the region of £164,950

OLDBURY

ASTLE DRIVE
Modern end terraced house offering good sized accommodation with the benefit of built-in kitchen appliances comprising reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen with built-in appliances, store cupboard, lounge, three bedrooms, ensuite shower, family bathroom, central heating, double glazing,garage and parking. Garden to rear. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £149,950

OLDBURY

REGENT DRIVE
Traditional semi-detached house situated in a popular residential location comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Central heating & double glazing. Parking to front. Large garden at rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Price: £137,950

TIPTON

THUNDERBOLT WAY
Ground floor flat built in 2005 offering compact accommodation comprising communal entrance, entrance hall, bathroom, bedroom, lounge/kitchen. Communal gardens and allocated parking. Ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £59,950

TIVIDALE

OAKTHORPE GARDENS
Purpose built first floor flat offering an ideal investment opportunity comprising porch, stairs to first floor landing, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing and night storage heating. Popular and convenient residential location. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £54,950

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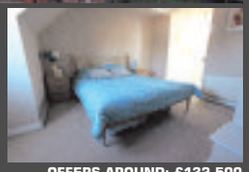
NEW

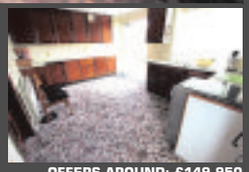
TIPTON SANNDERS CRESCENT
- Three Story End Of Terrace Town House
- Immactulately Presented Throughout
- Lounge & Dining Area
- Integrated Stylish Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom On 1st Floor
- Ensuite To Master On 2nd Floor
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Central Heating • Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain



OFFERS AROUND: £132,500

NEW

TIPTON BEVERSTON ROAD
- Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home Set Within Cul-de-sac Location
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Upstairs Family Shower Room
- Block Paved Off Street Parking For Several Vehicles
- Detached Garage To The Rear
- Rear Garden • Gas Fired Central Heating
- Double Glazing • Freehold
- No Upward Chain



OFFERS AROUND: £149,950

NEW

TIPTON GOSPEL OAK ROAD
- Spacious Three Bed Edwardian Mid Terrace
- Lounge • Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility Area
- Downstairs W/C
- Spacious Upstairs Family Bathroom
- 180° Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Cellar • Gas Fired Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

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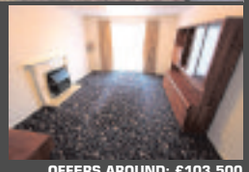
REDUCED

TIPTON FARLEY STREET
- Two Bed Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Upstairs Family Shower Room
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- Freehold



OFFERS AROUND: £103,500

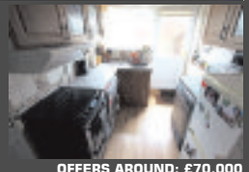
TIPTON MONINS AVENUE
- Three Storey Semi Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen Diner
- En-Suite To Master
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Off Street Parking For Two Cars
- Garage
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950

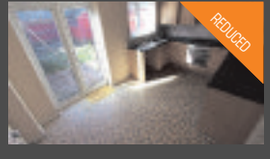
TIPTON TOLL END ROAD
- Two Bed Modern Semi Detached Family Home
- New Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge Area
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles
- Garage
- Storage Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £113,950

TIPTON LICHFIELD STREET
- Excellently Presented Ground Floor Flat
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Gated Block Paved Off Street Parking
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Ideal For First Time Buyers
- No Upward Chain



OFFERS AROUND: £70,000


REDUCED

TIPTON NEWCOMEN DRIVE
- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Ground Floor W/C
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- Family Bathroom
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking To The Side

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950

TIPTON BRUNEL DRIVE
- Modern Two Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Lounge/Diner
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £109,995

TIPTON ST. MARKS ROAD
- Well Maintained Three Bed Second Floor Masonette
- Cash Offers Only
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner With Recently Fitted Appliances
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Roof Terrace

CASH OFFERS AROUND: £44,950

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KATHY, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. **Text only Mailbox: 4539974**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657**

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. **Text only Mailbox: 5428223**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245**

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTM like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66 -73, for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267**

CLARA, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422055**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877**

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTM male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTM fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029**

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935**

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. **Text only Mailbox: 5448634**

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

CARING honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

MANDY divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841**

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. **Text only Mailbox: 5444151**

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM white male for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy ,easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. **Text only Mailbox: 5079890**

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809**

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583**

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567**

Single Men

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DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

MALE 44, honest, kind, caring and genuine looking for a long-term relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

DAVID, 58, single, looking for a female partner for friendship and company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422179**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

WHITE male 58, looking for large built Indian or Black woman for no strings adult fun. **Text only Mailbox: 4223520**

MIXED Race Male, smart, educated, looking for a lady 35/64 for discreet relationship/friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5462541**

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. **Text only Mailbox: 5457564**

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks cuddly large full figured kind loving lady 50 to 60 for LTR, love, kisses, cuddles, holding hands as well. **Text only Mailbox: 5439562**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, loving, tactile hoping for love again. **Text only Mailbox: 5449242**

ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialsing, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783**

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422213**

ALWAYS loved it and want to experience an older man, who knows how to make love? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422209**

ASIAN gent, 48, kind and caring, wishes to meet lady for chats, weekend outings and LTR, any age/status, ace. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422181**

MALE, 40s, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747**

44YRS old male, kind, genuine and honest, looking a long term relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

KISSING in depth, do what turns us on? Both unattached, yourself 35 to …, am kinky, 69, Cancer sign, WLTM for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422177**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

18+ and you want to be taught? Teacher glad to teach you, older, experienced guy, gentle and tender, etc, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422203**

WIDOWED OAP 82, WLTM lady any age for genuine companionship, togetherness, holidays and more. Can travel or accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 4625673**

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. **Text only Mailbox: 4918364**

45 YEAR male with varied interests WLTM female, 35 to 55, for friendship and hopefully more. **Text only Mailbox: 4215562**

MALE early 60s, young outlook on life seeks similar 50s early 60s genuine female, slim with GSOH for friendship maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5443478**

PAUL 65yrs, Mobility probs but very caring looking for caring lady 60/70 for friendship and possible LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5456394**

BUSINESSMAN, 58, adventurous and broadminded seeks a wild companion for fun and new experiences. **Text only Mailbox: 4534092**

MALE, 56, slim, 6ft, considerate and caring seeks similar type female to share life with. **Text only Mailbox: 5388635**

EDDIE, honest, caring, down to earth, likes all kinds of music, going out and having a good time, looking for a Black or Polish lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422019**

MALE, kinky as hell, and you're any age/looks/race/colour, this unattached guy, 69, god love it, anyway, LTR etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422017**

YOUNG looking 58 year old male, looking for black or Polish female 23-49 years, I am single, white and looking for a long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419903**

MATURE male, 60, seeks female for social meets, kisses, cuddles and intimate sexy fun, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421933**

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, professional male, 50, GSOH, easygoing, looking to meet someone with a GSOH, to have a laugh and a joke and take things from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421903**

SINGLE male 49, caring, romantic, affectionate, many interests, WLTM slim, busty female 25-45. **Text only Mailbox: 4362337**

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Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS 07776373150

what's on

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 18th May
07957 399964

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

spring fayre

Newton Road United Reformed Church, Great Barr.
SPRING FAYRE
Saturday, May 21 at 2pm.
Admission 30p
Large variety of stalls.

SPRING FAIR
Charlemont Methodist Church, Charlemont Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DU.
Saturday, May 21.
11am.

table top sale

ST MATTHEWS CHURCH
Windmill Lane, Smethwick.
Spring Fayre
Saturday May 21,
10.30 - 3pm.
Table top sale, prize draw and refreshments.
Admission 20p.

3 Home & Services

household appliances

URGENT SALE NOW ON
Gas and Electric Cookers, Fires, Autos, Tumble dryers, Fridge Freezers
CHURCH ST., BILSTON, OPP TOWN HALL.
PAST & PRESENT DOMESTIC
CALL **01902 403770**

furniture

BIG IN BEDS
FACTORY SHOP SALE
Over 1,000 mattresses in stock to take away or next day delivery.
100's of end of the line mattresses at bargain prices
Major credit cards accepted

eg Small single quilted matts NSP £49. Sale £19. Single luxury stitchbond regular matts NSP £69 Sale £39. Orthopaedic backcare. Single £69 Double £89. Memory foam quality matts singles £79 Doubles £99.

Liquidation Stocks - Hundreds of quality divans, ottomans, drawer divans at half internet prices Eg Apollo 4'6 2 dr divan set. Online price £309 better than Half Price £149. Apollo pocket sprung king size 2dr divan set. Online price £499 Half Price £249. Hundreds of fashion bedframes, bunk beds & landlords beds at bargain prices. Single ottomans £179 Double ottomans £199

We specialise in bespoke mattresses & beds made by us to suit your requirements

Special sizes, soft or firm, whatever you need we are the specialists.

SHOWROOM OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK MON-SAT 9AM-6PM SUN 10AM-4PM

BIG IN BEDS
BFC FURNITURE SHROWROOMS
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
BIG CHOICE OF DINING FURNITURE

in your garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£16 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

AT C B SHEDS & FENCING We supply/fit. Free quotes. Supply sleepers & decking 01922 720270.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT UP TO £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

kitchens & bathrooms

KITCHEN
Excellent condition. Traditional style. James & Huntley. Cheviot Yellow, Granite tops, Baumatic Oven with Hood, Fridge and Freezer. Must collect. **£2,000 ono.**
07733 327435.

G M BUILDERS
Kitchen and Bathroom specialist
Tilling, Plastering, Plumbing, Electrical, New Extensions.
Call for free quotes,
07445 807184 / 07460 690367

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
Checkatrade.com

A1 RAPID AERIALS Plasma fitting, Sky repairs, same day service, free call out, 3 yr g'tee, oap discounts 07960 173589 or 0800 633 5899.

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

building services

AD DAMP PROOFING
All building work, Roofing, Damp Problems, Plastering etc.
FREE QUOTES
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
07538 118034 or **01902 752161**

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

cctv

RAPID SECURITY CCTV & alarms cameras, supplied and fitted, domestic and commercial, same day service, free call out. Call Robbi on 07960 173589/ 0800 633 5899.

carpentry & joinery

B & S JOINERY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £350. 07958 552625, 07950 867972,

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, windows, staircases, refurbs. 07903 234137.

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices,
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers
- Cookers
- Fires
- Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years experience in supplying gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

fencing

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
PORTWAY FENCING

IT WORKS FOR ME
"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.
6x6 H/D Treated panels £15.95
6x5 Feather edge panels £18.95
8 foot concrete posts £8.95
12 inch x 6 foot gravel boards £7.95
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
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Tidy Fencing
Professional Fence Fitters & Gardeners
Established 2001
We are fully insured
NPTC qualified and all work comes with a 12 month warranty.
SPECIAL RATES available to senior citizens.
No job too small.
BIG SPRING DISCOUNT NOW AVAILABLE

Shed refelts now available!
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07908 478 962

gardening services

H COOPER & SON LANDSCAPING
WE CAN TRANSFORM OR MAINTAIN YOUR GARDEN
- Garden Walls
- Patios
- Fencing
- Turfing
- General Gardening

For high quality jobs done with pride and at a very fair price.
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Call: 07904 929632

blinds

MADE-TO-MEASURE BLINDS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS
HILLARYS

TO BOOK A **FREE** HOME APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL **0800 916 6563** OR VISIT **hillarys.co.uk**
*Ts & Cs apply

handyman services

ClassiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

Fresh Look. Plastering, plumbing, decorating and garden services. No job too small. Call 07510 682757.

LOCK AND CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, slabbing and roofing 01902 683100 or 07934 460864

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, All trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

house clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held
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THE CURIO SHOP House clearance specialists. Everything cleared. Est 1969. 61 George Street, Walsall, WS1 1RS. Call 07841 596254.

painters / decorators

DECORATOR
ALL domestic work undertaken
Reliable & Affordable
Special rates for OAPs
No job too SMALL
Call
07957 346 059

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering. Free quotes / OAP discount. 07973 286288.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

PROFESSIONAL HAND ink detailed drawings prepared. 01922 684503/ 07730 888063.

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. For All Your Home Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience.
Call Mark 07741 770 897.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

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A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
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ClassiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

IT WORKS FOR ME

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD. Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast, friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Call: 0121 555 6060.

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

tiling

A FLOOR AND WALL TILER. Est., 27 years. Free quotes. Call Mark 07983 459088, 01902 664048.

tree services

BUDGET TREE SURGERY Tall or small. Conifers & hedge trimming. Shrubs pruned, tidy ups & make overs 01215053558/ 07936882552

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BABY HAND REARED Conure with cage and stand £200.
07716 847443.

JACK RUSSELL PUPPIES 3 bitches, 2 dogs, country reared, good loving homes essential. 07540 609946.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

OUTSIDE YARD FOR RENT Different types of usage. £150 pw. Secured locked. Elizabeth Ave Bilston Wolves. Weekend viewing upon request. 07943 502474.

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

properties wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7 Jobs

bar staff

PART TIME BAR STAFF with real ale experience, flexible hours. West Bromwich area Tel 0121 588 5857

building & construction

TARMACADAM CONTRACTOR requires EXPERIENCED machine gang or paver operators. Sub-contractors considered. Must hold CSCS / CPCS cards. Competitive rates of pay. Contact RDS Construction Ltd on 0121 544 5661.

courses

TAMWORTH: 2-3 JUNE TELFORD: 3-4 SEPT.
BIRM'HAM: 15-16 AUG. STOKE: 17-18 SEPT.
Accredited ocn Geopace Training

Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - **Certificate in Phlebotomy**
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
More info. or to book: www.geopace.com
Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD - Research - Overseas

MTS HGV training, Willenhall. Minibus, 7.5 tonne C1 & car & trailer 01902 866510 / 07807 035066

engineering

COLD ROLLED SECTION ROLLER
Cold Rolled Sections experience preferred

Salary dependant on experience,

TIPTON AREA
Call 0121 557 3415
or email:
mhale@sectionsandtubes.co.uk

EXPERIENCED FABRICATOR / WELDER permanent position. Tipton area. Call 0121 520 4960

JOINERY/SHOPFITTING BUSINESS based in Oldbury Looking for CNC Programmer/Operator. Running on zilog & Genio software Also looking for Bench Joiners Laminating Experience preferable. CVs to adam.phillips@aspen concepts.co.uk 0121 544 1044

TRAINEE TOOLMAKER Self-motivated person required to learn an excellent trade in our Press Shop Toolroom. In house training in the Toolroom and Press Shop will be given. Please send CVs to Nigel Adams Works Manager at nigeladams@hillsfeels.co.uk

motor trade

FULLY QUALIFIED HGV MECHANIC / TYRE FITTER HGV Licence would be beneficial. Based in Smethwick some travelling will be involved. Please send CV's to gistmanager@kjltransportservices.co.uk or call 0121 565 2792 for application form.

nursing & carers

20 HOME CARERS £7.20ph+travel time paid,Must have checkable work history,Car drivers preferred,Full and part-time hours available, West Bromwich, Cradley Heath,Tipton and Rowley Regis.Call Proline Care on 0121 687 8871.

part time - general

PART TIME FUNERAL ARRANGER 20 hours own transport essential Tel 0121 533 0241

full time - general

CARLTON CARE GROUP
BEECHCROFT RESIDENTIAL HOME
Salop Drive, Oldbury B68 9AG

FULL & PART TIME
CARE ASSISTANTS
Care Assistants required to join our team, preferably with NVQ 2
but full training will be given to suitable applicants.
Application forms only available from reception.
Previous applicants need not apply.

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
JOBSDAY

jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

*Advertise any item ***FREE*** up to the value of ***£250,*** simply fill out the

ADVERT DETAILS - (ONE WORD PER BOX, 12 WORDS IN TOTAL)

ADVERT 1			
ADVERT 2			
ADVERT 3			

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____

Please send to: ClassiedAds, Express & Star, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE

*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Limited time only
Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum

Buy Local, **Sell** Local
01902 317878

ClassiedAds

Classified Ads

Sandwell age UK

Age UK Sandwell Day Centre
1a Beeches Road
West Bromwich
B70 6QE

The following vacancies have arisen at Age UK Sandwell Day Centre. Those wishing to apply should do so via the contact details listed below.

Care Services Activity Manager

Tues, Thurs and Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm - £11,243.70 p.a. for 22.5 hours

The Manager will be responsible for the daily operation of the Care Services (Day Care and befriending service) at our day centre in Beeches Road, West Bromwich including the supervision of staff, students and volunteers. Must be able to carry out the assessment of service users for care support and able to maintain regulatory documentation pertaining to care services. Experience in the arrangement and monitoring of training for the service, monitoring of financial practices and site maintenance processes are integral to the role. Applicants must be independently mobile with access to their own car with business purposes insurance cover for which travel costs will be paid.

Day Care Team Leader

Tues, Thurs and Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm - £9,360 p.a. for 22.5 hours

To be responsible for the daily delivery of care support for our day centre in Beeches Road, West Bromwich. Working under the direction of the Care Services Activity Manager and being responsible for the smooth operation of the activities and meal times, designating duties, supervising care workers, students and volunteers plus operating as an escort for transport.

Careworker/minibus driver

Tues, Thurs and Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm - £8704.80 p.a. for 22.5 hours

To be responsible for driving the minibus each day at our day centre in Beeches Road, West Bromwich and will be required to keep accurate documentation of transport. The role requires the delivery of personal care, meal service and activities during care sessions and escorting when required if and when requested. Applicants must also be willing to undergo MIDAS training if not already trained.

For an application pack for the above posts please contact Abi O'Toole on 0121 500 1860 or e-mail abigail.o'toole@ageuksandwell.org.uk.
Applications close Thursday 25th May 2016 5pm.
Age UK Sandwell values diversity and is an Equal Opportunities Employer
Reg. Charity no: 1080517

METSEC

voestalpine Metsec plc, a leading manufacturer of cold rolled steel products based in Oldbury, West Midlands has the following vacancies:

APPRENTICES

We are currently seeking 5 Apprentices to enter our training programme. This is a highly regarded scheme which offers an excellent opportunity to earn while you learn. voestalpine Metsec plc remains one of the few Engineering companies to run an in-house scheme, without any external support. To date we have trained 47 apprentices that now make up 14% of the workforce, well on the way to achieving the goal of 20% by 2020.

voestalpine Metsec plc has a thriving Apprentice Centre, where in the first year you will be based in the Apprentice workshop. During this time you will complete an NVQ Level 2 entitled 'Performing Engineering Operations' (PEO). The PEO will give you basic metal working skills in bench fitting, marking out, milling, lathe work, operating the pedestal drill and some basic assembly skills.

On completion of the first year, you may then have the opportunity to move onto an Advanced Apprenticeship to obtain an NVQ Level 3 which involves working in all departments to gain a good understanding of how the business is run. During this time you may also have day release to a local college/training provider to gain a Level 3 Technical certificate to compliment the NVQ Level 3.

We require applicants to have an interest in manufacturing, have an outgoing personality and a positive outlook, be willing to learn and have a good work ethic, have good attention to detail, be capable of working to set instructions, be capable of working as a team member and on own initiative and be reliable and punctual.

These positions offer an attractive remuneration package including all the usual benefits.

To apply, please forward your CV to HR Department, voestalpine Metsec plc, Broadwell Road, Oldbury, B69 4HF or by email to hr@metsec.com detailing all relevant experience/training/certification.

Closing date for applications is 30 June 2016

voestalpine Metsec plc is an equal opportunities employer

voestalpine
ONE STEP AHEAD.

Central RPL

Despatch and Transport Manager Required
Salary Negotiable

We are an expanding, PVCu Window and Door manufacturer, based in West Bromwich, who invites applicants for the above position.

Requirements:
- Detailed knowledge of transport planning and operations on a business to business
- Experience in managing the liaison between office, drivers and customers.
- Good communication skills.
- A CPC qualification and full driving license.
- Ability to drive the change and improvements across the whole department.

Please apply in the first instance by contacting Operations Director, Graham Eardley on graham@centralrpl.co.uk or call on 0121 500 0505

EXPERIENCED LATH FABRICATOR
required for large roller shutter door manufacturer
Apply in writing with current CV to the following address

James Sandland
Sales Manager
THE PRIORY SHUTTER & DOOR COMPANY LTD
Lionel Works
89-91 Rolfe Street,
Smethwick B66 2AY
or email to:
sales@priory-group.co.uk

TRANSPORT OPERATIONS PLANNER Family run logistics Company. Experience essential, based in Smethwick. Please send CV's to gistmanager@kjjtransportservices.co.uk or call 0121-565-2792 for application form.

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CRYSLER PT CRUISER GT 2005, 2429cc, 67k, full MoT, black, immaculate condition. £1,200. 01922 320358 / 07530 900009.

FIAT PUNTO S60, dark green, 5-dr hatchback, private / light goods, petrol, full MoT, £450 ono. 01543 575930. After 4pm.

HYUNDAI GETZ 03 reg, 57,000 miles, MoT, new timing belt, 4 as new tyres, very good condition. £725. 01889 583497.

KIA PICANTO 05 reg, MoT Feb 2017, good runner, £30 road tax, £800 ono. 07851 577549.

NISSAN ALMERA 2004,5dr 63k,silver fsh,long mot,e/w,e/m excellent condition,private plate included, first to see will buy.£1,300 ono 0791406744 1

PEUGEOT 206cc sports convertible, 2006, silver, 12 months MoT, low mileage, good condition, alarm, £1,500 ono. 07510 657690.

RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 2006, 101,000 miles, black, abs, e/w, MoT, alloys, diesel, rcl, serviced, low tax, 7 seats £1,350 ono 07758242943

ROVER 25 GTi 1.8, VVC, 146bhp, 78k, 5-dr, silver, head gasket done in July 2013, MoT Dec, MGZR Skirts. £450. 07716 300444.

SMART CITY PULSE 2004, navy blue and black, fsh, full MoT, new tyres, leather electric seats, £1,100. 07480 760707.

VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB
auto, 2004, 1600cc, petrol, 5-dr hatchback, black, MoT Oct, 86,000 miles, immaculate inside and out.
£995.
07733 063247. 01543 505955.

VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.0, 2004 (53), silver, 5dr, MoT June 2016, 72,400 miles, excellent condition. £1,000 ono. 07984 207513.

VW GOLF TDI 55, 160,000 Miles, Black, long mot. Very reliable, Average condition, 5 door. Stafford£995 ono 07968654541

cars over £1500

BMW Z4 2006, 73k, Immaculate condition, Diamond Black, FSH, MoT 12 months, 12 months Warranty. £5,495. 0774 6596760.

FIAT PANDA
1400, light blue, 36,000 miles, 12 months MoT, RJ56 NYC, excellent condition, FSH, 2 owners, pensioner car, Garmin Sat Nav, bargain.
£1800.
01922 441203. 07512 347488.

NISSAN MICRA 06 Regn, 12 month MoT, recent service, 69, 000mls. Excellent condition. £1,595. 07951 627456.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

A BRITISH BIKE WANTED for restoration by retired gent. Triumph/BSA/Norton. Any condition. Cash paid. 01543 422237.

TWO STROKE 3 bike motorbike trailer, new jockey wheel and tyres, good condition. £250. 01785 255563 / 07913 021857.

scrap vehicles

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

9 Local Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/16/59247	Mr Kevin Rowen Alpha-Rowen Holdings Ltd	Former Car Park Barnfield Road Tipton	Proposed industrial unit to house heat treatment equipment.

This is a major application.

DC/16/59365	SMBC Homes and Communities	Land At Oxford Road West Bromwich	Proposed 36 No. bungalows and 58 No. flats with associated roads and landscaping.

This is a major application.

DC/16/59192	Mr Kabal Jaswal Richmond Construction	Cottage Inn Wood Green Road Wednesbury WS10 9QL	Demolition of public house and erection of 2 No. three bed houses and 11 No. two bed houses with landscaping and associated parking.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Richmond Road, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Richmond Road, Smethwick. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 12/06/16 effective from 28/05/16 (weekends only). Traffic will be diverted via Bearwood Road, Linden Road, Merrivale Road and vice-versa. Purpose – work to a mobile phone mast by Telefonica (02).

ELSIE JEAN SHINNER (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 96 Elizabeth Walk Tipton West Midlands DY4 0AX, who died on 03/12/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 29/07/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
BACHES LLP
Cronehills Linkway
West Bromwich B70 7PL *T472044*

JOAN JONES (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 38 Upper St Mary's Road Smethwick West Midlands B67 5JR, who died on 02/03/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 29/07/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
SILKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY *T472093*

THOMAS DESMOND TAYLOR (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 4 Copson Close West Bromwich B70 9PR, who died on 26/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 29/07/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
BACHES SOLICITORS LLP
Lombard House Cronehills Linkway
West Bromwich B70 7PL *T467665*

10 Personals

sports clubs

FOOTBALLERS REQUIRED FOR U'9 TEAM
We are a successful local football team in the Walsall Junior Youth League looking for an eight year old
GOALKEEPER & STRIKER
To strengthen our team for the forthcoming 2016/17 season.
If you are interested please contact 07739 899786 for more details, alternatively email your details to dave@gunther.co.uk and we will be in touch.

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HEDNESFORD TOWN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U15'S
have a fantastic opportunity for talented footballers to join them in the Midland Junior Premier League for next season (2016/17).
Players who successfully make the team will have the opportunity to develop their football careers within a proven pathway to either professional or semi-professional football under the guidance of UEFA coach Darryl Moffatt.
Trials are being held at the beginning of June for all player positions. To be considered you must have played at a high standard such as Academy, Development, Junior Premier League or District football.
Players must be currently in school yr 9, going into yr 10 in September 2016.
For more information contact Martin Canning on 07545 310311 or email htyds@btinternet.com

TIPTON TOWN FC PLAYERS WANTED Season 2016/2017
We are looking for players aged 12 - 21 for the following teams
Stourbridge League (Sundays)
U13s (based Tividale)
U14s (based Sedgley / Lanesfield / Tipton)
U18s (based Sedgley / Lanesfield)
Midland JPL (Saturdays)
U16s (based Tividale)
U18s (based Tipton)
Midland Floodlit League (Midweek)
U18s (based Tipton Sports Academy)
Midland Football League (Saturdays) U21s
If you are interested please contact Ann on 07535 975142 or email tiptontownjuniors@gmail.com

personal

FRIENDLESS MALE
aged 57, seeking special friend, any nationality, for companionship, days out, cinema etc.
All replies answered.
Box Number P20352 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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To **Place** your ad by text

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Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** by text: **Text.. REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch..** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

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Try it.. You'll love it!

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on: **0906 500 3957** calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

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THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

KATHY, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. **Text only Mailbox: 4539974**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657**

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. **Text only Mailbox: 5428223**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245**

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTM like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66 -73, for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267**

CLARA, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422055**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877**

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTM male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTM fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029**

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935**

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. **Text only Mailbox: 5448634**

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

CARING honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

MANDY divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841**

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. **Text only Mailbox: 5444151**

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM white male for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy ,easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. **Text only Mailbox: 5079890**

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809**

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583**

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

MALE 44, honest, kind, caring and genuine looking for a long-term relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

DAVID, 58, single, looking for a female partner for friendship and company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422179**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

WHITE male 58, looking for large built Indian or Black woman for no strings adult fun. **Text only Mailbox: 4223520**

MIXED Race Male, smart, educated, looking for a lady 35/64 for discreet relationship/friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5462541**

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. **Text only Mailbox: 5457564**

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks cuddly large full figured kind loving lady 50 to 60 for LTR, love, kisses, cuddles, holding hands as well. **Text only Mailbox: 5439562**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, loving, tactile hoping for love again. **Text only Mailbox: 5449242**

ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialsing, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783**

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422213**

ALWAYS loved it and want to experience an older man, who knows how to make love? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422209**

ASIAN gent, 48, kind and caring, wishes to meet lady for chats, weekend outings and LTR, any age/status, ace. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422181**

MALE, 40s, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747**

44YRS old male, kind, genuine and honest, looking a long term relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

KISSING in depth, do what turns us on? Both unattached, yourself 35 to …, am kinky, 69, Cancer sign, WLTM for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422177**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

18+ and you want to be taught? Teacher glad to teach you, older, experienced guy, gentle and tender, etc, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422203**

WIDOWED OAP 82, WLTM lady any age for genuine companionship, togetherness, holidays and more. Can travel or accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 4625673**

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. **Text only Mailbox: 4918364**

45 YEAR male with varied interests WLTM female, 35 to 55, for friendship and hopefully more. **Text only Mailbox: 4215562**

MALE early 60s, young outlook on life seeks similar 50s early 60s genuine female, slim with GSOH for friendship maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5443478**

PAUL 65yrs, Mobility probs but very caring looking for caring lady 60/70 for friendship and possible LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5456394**

BUSINESSMAN, 58, adventurous and broadminded seeks a wild companion for fun and new experiences. **Text only Mailbox: 4534092**

MALE, 56, slim, 6ft, considerate and caring seeks similar type female to share life with. **Text only Mailbox: 5388635**

EDDIE, honest, caring, down to earth, likes all kinds of music, going out and having a good time, looking for a Black or Polish lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422019**

MALE, kinky as hell, and you're any age/looks/race/colour, this unattached guy, 69, god love it, anyway, LTR etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422017**

YOUNG looking 58 year old male, looking for black or Polish female 23-49 years, I am single, white and looking for a long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419903**

MATURE male, 60, seeks female for social meets, kisses, cuddles and intimate sexy fun, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421933**

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, professional male, 50, GSOH, easygoing, looking to meet someone with a GSOH, to have a laugh and a joke and take things from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421903**

SINGLE male 49, caring, romantic, affectionate, many interests, WLTM slim, busty female 25-45. **Text only Mailbox: 4362337**

Customer support
Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, May 19, 2016

Van show full of promise

By Sharon Walters

VanExperience Live 2016, the ultimate test drive from Mercedes-Benz Vans, is now officially open for registration from all interested van operators to come to the UK's largest event of its kind, via www.MBVans.co.uk/VEL

Open for all van operators, VanExperience Live promises to be bigger than ever before, with more than 2,500 van operators expected to arrive. Taking place at Millbrook Proving Ground in Bedfordshire across 10 week days from 20 June to 1 July 2016, VanExperience Live is now celebrating its 13th year.

There will be three main hands-on demonstration areas to help guests assess how Mercedes-Benz vans perform in all areas:

- Drive It – A full range drive to experience the entire product line-up from Mercedes-Benz Vans, and compare them directly with competitor test vehicles
- Test It – A challenging off-road course to show the skills of the Sprinter 4x4 and 6x6 vehicles
- Trust It – A safety-focused activity, including handling on the all-new wet grip experience

Steve Bridge, managing director of Mercedes-Benz Vans, said: "This is the first time in the event's 13-year history that we are opening up the doors of VanExperience Live to all van operators, to really help them to make their minds up when it comes to assessing their next vehicle purchase – the feedback we receive each year proves the format is the best in the industry. We know how important vans are to our guests, and appreciate that many who attend aren't 'van drivers' – they are people who use a van to deliver goods or services, so it is our promise to provide as much support as possible to these UK businesses, enabling them to focus on delivering their customers great service without having to worry about their van. I look forward to seeing many van operators there – from a one-van business, through to some of the biggest fleets in the UK."

I look forward to seeing many van operators there – from a one-van business, to some of the biggest fleets in the UK

With experts available throughout the event to answer any questions, guests can use their time at VanExperience Live to fully understand the range of products and services offered by Mercedes-Benz Vans and how Mercedes-Benz Vans can support their business, including: MobiloVan free roadside assistance; Accessories to personalise any Mercedes-Benz van; GenuineParts and their importance; and the Star Expert team will be on-hand to answer any van-related queries, including product, industry and legislative questions.

A complete display of vehicles will also be available to access, including vans from more than 30 body builder and conversion exhibitors to show how adaptable a van can be.

In addition, guests will have access to all areas of the business, including Management, as the entire Mercedes-Benz Vans

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Audi SUV RS Q3 is number 1 in its field

By John Griffiths

The SUV, or sports utility vehicle, is something of a phenomenon, driving car sales across the world to dizzying new heights.

They've been around for years, of course, but what was once the reserve of farmers and foresters is now mass market transport – particularly the latest 'compact' variety.

Off-road prowess has, in most cases, given way to a style of car with tall, SUV looks but which is often two-wheel drive only and is aimed at drivers who won't ever venture into the wild.

In the last few years virtually every manufacturer has brought a new compact SUV to the market and yet buyers don't seem to be spoiled for choice: sales were up across the board by a whole 25 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Now Audi has raised the bar with a new, high performance version of its Q3 crossover, bearing the iconic RS badge which has denoted the ultimate model in the range for the past 25 years.

To be precise, it's the RS Q3 Performance 2.5 TFSI: a long name which perhaps goes some way to justifying its £47,850 price tag.

That and the fact that it could fairly be described as the ultimate compact SUV, a car which sneers at hot hatchbacks and would give supercars costing two, three or four times as much a run for their money.

The price isn't the only number which impresses: 367Ps of power, 465Nm of torque, 0 to 62mph in 4.4 seconds and a top speed electronically limited to 155mph.

It's a bit of a beast, but a comparatively tame one which is rremarkably civilised to drive – especially if like me your old enough to remember 'hot' cars of yesteryear which were noisy, posssessed few creature comforts and had suspension hard enough to loosen your fillings over a typical British B-road.

Refined

While its interior dimensions are not too dissimilar from its cousin the Golf, it is smooth and refined, and the most luxuriously equipped of the Q3 range.

Press the accelerator a little harder, for example for a quick overtake (and believe me, they're quick!) and you will be concsious of the sonorous exhaust growl from the 2.5 litre, five cylinder turbocharged engine.

But in normal cruise mode, the engine has such a surfeit of power in reserve it's barely breathing heavily: it would be easy to forget the potency under your right foot. The seven-speed Tiptronic automatic transmission is particularly responsive and you'll rarely if ever feel the need to flick it over into manual mode.

It's braking power is impressive, too, with huge 365mm ventilated 'wave' discs and eight piston calipers hiding behind the 20-inch alloy wheels.

A new, bespoke sports suspension system and variable electric power steering (with 2.7 turns from lock to lock) means the Q3 is as agile as a lowered high performance hatchback, with a quick turn-in and excellent road holding.

The Performance model does sit 25mm lower than a standard Q3, which would reduce its off-road potential: but that's not, of course it's intended domain and the well-proven quattro four wheel drive system is there to give you traction and grip, controlling the power in a variety of road conditions,

This model can be readily identified by various RS styling touches (and of course badges), and aerodynamic features such as the rear diffuser, RS rear spoiler, special bumpers with larger air intakes, side flaps and a funnel-shaped front splitter.

The interior is kitted out in the premium car bracket, with heated and electrically adjustable front seats in soft alcantara and leather, multi-function sports steering wheel, sporty aluminium pedals, high quality trim, privacy glass in the rear, a premium, ten-speaker audio system, central control screen with satellite navigation, dual zone climate control, cruise control, and parking sensors at the front and rear.

The car, like its lower-powered siblings, will accommodate five adults and there's a fairly generous 356 litres of booth space (1,261 litres if you fold the rear seats down).

Running costs for a high performance car aren't bargain basement, but on official figures the RS Q3

Performance is capable of averaging just over 32mpg, with a CO2 rating of 203g/km.

No-one expects the RS Performance to be the biggest seller in the Q3 range – no flagship model is – but it has the distinctive looks to set it apart from the mass of crossover models on our roads.

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Fiat back in fight for sales with Tipo

By Ian Donaldson

IN 1989 Kia and Hyundai were selling modest numbers of cars on the strength of a low price and decently full equipment levels.

That year Fiat was celebrating the crowning of its Tipo as European Car of the Year and the future for this family-sized hatch looked rosy. The successor would surely be better still.

But it never happened. In the 27 years since then the Italian car giant shrunk its range so the tiny 500 now makes the money and Kia and Hyundai no longer make cheap cars, selling instead on value for money.

But now – roll of drums – the next Tipo has arrived and it's built in Turkey to keep costs down and is coming to the UK in September, starting at £12,995 and looking to take on the likes of Kia and Hyundai by costing less and offering more. How about that for table turning.

At the world press launch of the car – ironically in an empty factory in Turin that once made Fiat diesel engines – there was no lack of marketing hype (there never is), promising us that the Tipo is the best value for money on the market.

We shall see, but first signs are promising. It drives like a dearer car, looks smart in a modern mid-European way and comes well kitted out for the money.

But so does the Hyundai i30, to pluck one obvious competitor from the back of your favourite car magazine.

In mainland Europe, where a saloon version of the Tipo has been on sale for a while, they've sold more than 22,000 of them already, helped by a starting price in Spain of £10,200 (even less after a scrappage scheme for old cars, remember that?).

But back to the Tipo in the metal, where we discover a car genuinely spacious enough for a six-footer to sit comfortably behind himself and boots that range from big in the hatch to enormous in the estate. Both are best in class, says Fiat.

We won't be seeing the saloon in the UK because nobody buys them at this end of the market, reserving obvious boots for bigger more prestigious machines with German or Jaguar badges.

Fewer private buyers are going for hatches or estates either, being lured into SUVs instead, but there are evidently enough loyal hatchers to persuade Fiat to invest millions of euros to reenter the market.

In the UK we will have three grades of trim – names to be decided – with even the entry level having standard kit that includes air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, six airbags, DAB radio, Bluetooth and steering wheel remote controls.

The Station Wagon adds £1,000 to the bill as well as roof bars and electric rear windows.

A good sat nav system is a reasonable £500 extra with either body shape.

Move up a trim level ((for £1,000) and sat nav drops to £250 because a touch screen infotainment system comes as standard anyway, along with alloy wheels, parking sensors and cruise control.

Another £1,000 (spot the easily grasped 'price walks'?) brings us to the top grade, with an increased goodies' count that includes sat nav with traffic service, bigger alloys, rear view camera, auto lights and wipers and climate control.

We will be offered five engines, three petrol (two 1.4s and a1.6 litres) and a pair of diesels, 1.3 and 1.6 litres, with this smelly fuel duo likely to be the bigger sellers in the UK.

Two different automatic gearboxes are offered, depending on your engine choice, and a decently precise manual six-speed comes as standard.

The more powerful, 120 horsepower diesel (£17,995 in top hatch trim), pulls well and is quiet from start-up, which is far from common.

It also showed 49mpg after an 'honest' test route with steep hills, lots of hairpins and lots of stop/start town work. So, it's not going to cost a fortune to run.

The Tipo rides well too, with a firmly controlled feel and you can detect the special attention Fiat has given the steering, which remains feelsome and pleasantly direct. As ever with the brand, a button makes it lighter for city work, but, as ever, seems redundant.

Jumping into a 1.6 110 horsepower petrol (£16,995 in hatch mid-trim level) the extra eagerness of the engine to rev was a spur to enjoy the scenic and mildly demanding test route, where the car was a lively, willing companion. It showed 36mpg on the clear trip computer, part of a easily read dash that comes complete with big digital speed readout.

Finally, some random details of the newcomer: it has multiple storage compartments scattered round the cabin, the estate will take an object 1.8 metres long, thanks to a body stretched 20cms over the hatch, the rear seats flop forward easily but leave a load floor that is not completely flat... and you can keep up with world news from Reuters in mid range models and above, thanks to a smartphone app.

Good news all round for Fiat? The signs look encouraging.

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY

CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK

2016 Vauxhall Corsa Van 1.2 CORSA SPORTIVE CDTi, 10 miles, silver, £9,799 +VAT

2013 Vauxhall Cascada 1.4T Elite 2dr, convertible, petrol, 15,000 miles, grey, £13,995

2009 Vauxhall Antara 2.0 CDTi 16v SE 5dr Auto, 60,000 miles, diesel, blue, £8,495

2007 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 VECTRA SRI XP CDTi, estate, 29,869 miles, silver, £5,495

Vauxhall Adam Selection

2013/13 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i JAM 3 door, Yellow, 31,000 miles £6495

Vauxhall Ampera Selection

2012/12 VAUXHALL AMPERA ELECTRON HYBRID White, 25,000 miles £14495

Vauxhall Antara Selection

2009/09 VAUXHALL ANTARA SE CDTi AUTO Blue Grey, 60,000 miles £8495

Vauxhall Astra Selection

2006/06 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 ACTIVE Silver, Only 17,000 miles £3650
2008/58 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN 3 door, Gold Sat Nav, 30,000 miles £4450
2011/11 VAUXHALL ASTRA TOURER EST CDTi 47,000 miles £6850
2012/12 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5 door, Black, 45,000 miles £7495
2012/62 VAUXHALL ASTRA LTD EDITION Red, 28,000 miles, 5 door £7995
2012/12 VAUXHALLASTRA 1.6 SRi ESTATE, Silver, 28,000 miles £8250
2013/13 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 TOURER SRI CDTI 5 Door, Blue, 34000 miles £9495
2015/15 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 DESIGN White, 10,000 miles £9495
2012/12 VAUXHALL ASTRA TOURER SE 2.0 CDTI 5 door, 24000 miles £9495
2015/15 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 1.4 5 door, White, 13,000 miles £9495
2012/62 VAUXHALL ASTRA SRi GTC 2.0 CDTs Red, 30,000 miles £9995
2013/63 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTI AUTOMATIC. White 34,000 miles £10495
2013/63 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SRi 1.4T Red, 5,000 miles £11495

Vauxhall Corsa Selection

2006/56 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5 door, only 26,000 miles £2995
2005/55 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4I 16V DESIGN AUTO, 5 door, Silver, 49,473 miles £3495
2010/59 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Blue, 28,000 miles £5995
2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY White, 37,000 miles, Alloy Wheels, 11,000 miles £6495
2011/61 VAUXHALL CORSA 3dr, Ltd Edition, White, 16,000 miles £6995
2012/62 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRi, Black, 20,000 miles £7195
2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA LIMITED EDITION CDTi DIESEL 3dr, 21,000 miles, Red £7995
2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.4, 5 door, Waterworld £7995
2013/63 VAUXHALL CORSA SRi 1.4 3 door, Black, 17,000 miles £7995
2014/64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Grey, 10,000 miles £8495
2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 3dr, Grey, 19,500 miles £8495
2014/14 VAUXHALL CORSA 5dr, Ltd Edition, White, 18,000 miles £8495
2014/14 VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 3dr, Black, only 8400 miles £8750
2015/64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SE 5 door, Grey, 16,000 miles £8995
2015/15 VAUXHALL CORSA 3dr, SRI, 1.4, Silver, 14,000 miles £9995
2012/12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6 VXR, 3 door, Red, 35,664 miles £9995
2015/15 VAUXHALL CORSA TURBO VXR LINE 3 door, White, 18,000 miles £10495
2015/15 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Black, 18,000 miles £9995

Vauxhall Cascada Selection

2013/13 VAUXHALL CASCADA SE 1.4 Turbo Convertible, Red Metallic Only 12,500 miles £14995
2013/13 VAUXHALL CASCADA 2.0 CDTI CONVERTIBLE Red Metallic 20,000 miles £14995
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2012/62 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA VX LINE NAV Red, 39,000 miles £10995
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2015/15 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8VVT DESIGN 5dr, Colour choice, 9,000 miles £11,995
2013/13 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 SRi NAV CDTi, Carbon F, 41,200 miles £12150
2015/15 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA TOURER TECHLINE CDTi Red, 16,000 miles £14995
2015/65 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRi VX LINE SPORT TOURER White, Sat Nav £16995
2015/65 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA TECHLINE TOURER CDTi 136ps Blue, Only 3,500 miles £16995

Vauxhall Mokka Selection

2013/63 VAUXHALL MOKKA 4X4 TURBO 1.4 Silver, 28,000 miles £12995
2014/14 VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.7 CDTi White, only 6,000 miles £13495
2015/15 VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6 CDTi Silver, 13,000 miles £13995
2014/14 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI SE White, 18,000 miles £13995
2015/65 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi TECHLINE Blue, 2,800 miles £14995
2015/15 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4 T 4X4 EXCLUSIV Blue, 9,800 miles £16995

Vauxhall Meriva and Zafira Selection

2007/07 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 ENERGY 57,600 miles £2650
2006/06 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 DESIGN, Blue, 37,699 miles £2995
2014/64 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER 1.4 TURBO EXCLUSIV Silver Blue Metallic, 17,000 miles £12995
2015/65 VAUXHALL MERIVA EXCLUSIV CDTi AUTOMATIC only 10 miles, Choice of colours £12995

Vauxhall Vectra

2008/08 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 EXCLUSIV Silver, 49,000 miles £3495
2007/07 VAUXHALL VECTRA XP ESTATE AUTOMATIC DIESEL Silver, Only 29,000 miles £4995
2007/07 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 SRi XP CDTi, Silver, 29,869 miles £5995

Other Makes

2003/03 PEUGEOT 206 GTi 2.0 70,000 miles, Very Special Car Throughout £2995
2007/57 NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACENTA, Red, 67,000 miles £2995
2003/52 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.9 MULTISPACE 36,000 miles, with full wheelchair access, Red £2995
2005/05 BMW 316 Ti ES COMPACT Grey, 46k £3995
2009/09 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SPORT, 3 door, 58,000 miles £4995
2003/03 MINI HATCHBACK 1.6 COOPER S 3 door, 43,916 miles, Blue £4995
2003/53 VOLVO XC270 2.4 D5 SE GEARTRONIC AUTO 5 door, Gold, 78,600 miles £4995
2010/60 RENAULT GRAND MODUS 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE 5 door, 23,500 miles, Blue £5350
2005/55 HYUNDAI TUCSON 45,000 miles, Silver £5495
2004/54 AUDI A4 1.8T SPORT MULTITRONIC 2 door, Grey, 57,010 miles £5995
2004/54 AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE Gold, 57,000 miles £5995
2009/59 PEUGEOT 207 GT CONVERTIBLE Blue, 27,000 miles £6495
2012/12 MG 6 TURBO Grey, 30,000 miles £6495
2007/57 NISSAN QUASHQAI ACENTA CDTi Grey, 62,000 miles £6850
2007/07 NISSAN QUASHQAI ACENTA 2WD Grey, 59,000 miles £6995
2007/07 TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 VVT-i XT5 AUTO 5 door, Blue, 59,566 miles £7750
2009/59 MINI COOPER MAYFAIR Brown, Alloys etc, 29,000 miles £7995
2012/62 FORD FIESTA 3dr, Zetec 'S', Red, 18,000 miles £9195
2010/10 BMW 525D SE SALOON Grey, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, Leather £12995
2011/61 BMW 120d COUPE AUTOMATIC Red, Leather, Alloys, 24,000 miles £13495
2012/12 L/R RANGE ROVER 2.2 EVOQUE PURE, White, 54,673 miles £24650

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Twins Charlotte, left, and Kathrine Whyle, from Fordhouses

Pathway manager Bob Askey

Coach Leigh Rees points the way to two young women players

Staffordshire women's batsman Alex Hale

Cricketing maidens look to stump the opposition

STAFFORDSHIRE women are padding up for a summer of high-class action alongside England's finest.

The county side had their first taste of top-flight cricket this month when they opened their ECB Women's County Championship Division One season.

Wolverhampton's Danescourt Road ground was the venue for the clash with Berkshire, who won by eight wickets.

But Staffordshire can look to build on last season's successful promotion-winning campaign as they host Yorkshire and Middlesex before the season's end in September, as well as travelling to face Kent, Warwickshire, Surrey and Sussex.

Under the watchful eye of performance and pathway manager Bob Askey and coach Leigh Rees, Staffs have made impressive progress on the field.

They set out with a five-year plan to reach the top division and achieved their aim with 12 months to spare.

Interest

And now Askey believes the chance to face the cream of English cricket will help to further lift the profile of the women's game across the county.

"Last season's promotion has helped to promote women's cricket around the county and I am sure playing at the top level will help generate more interest," he said.

"Women's cricket has always been strong in Staffordshire and we are looking to take the opportunity to grow the game further.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"Women's cricket has always been strong in Staffordshire and we are looking to take the opportunity to grow the game further."

"The key is to make the game accessible, whether it's games with a hard ball, soft ball or with an incrediball."

Askey added: "It has been a busy winter. We have run various leagues throughout the winter and some women-only coaching sessions.

"We have also got a number of festivals planned throughout the summer and will have a girls only academy this year for the first time."

And while there have been positive steps taken during the winter months, Askey is well aware of the challenges facing his squad on the field this summer.

The top players in the English game are now supported full-time by the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Staffs girls, including Fordhouses twins Charlotte and Kathryn Whyle, Wolverhampton's Alex Hale and Bloxwich's Cheryl Alcock, will be lining up against members of the England Test and one-day outfits. The national side, captained by Charlotte Edwards, reached the semi-finals of the recent World T20 competition – won by the West Indies – and Askey is keen to see how his troops measure up as they try to emulate Danielle Wyatt and Georgia Elwiss, both of whom progressed through the Staffs ranks and have gone on to represent their country.

"They will be playing against England stars this summer and there is no doubt it is going to be tough for them," added Askey.

"But they are a pretty resilient and determined bunch and they are looking forward to the challenge.

"Danielle Wyatt and Georgia Elwiss have both gone on to play for England and it's a great incentive for them.

Strategies

"We will be facing some great opposition and some quality players and that is what you want to be doing.

"We have been running various sessions throughout the winter and we are now focusing on various strategies that we will need.

"The level of fitness in the top division will be better and there will be a greater intensity to the games.

"The players at this level will be a lot more consistent. We will need to be more patient in our approach."

Berkshire, Kent, Middlesex, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire will provide the championship opposition this summer while Staffs will lock horns with Durham, Essex, Hampshire, Somerset, Surrey, Wales and Worcestershire in the T20 competition.

The T20 format sees three teams playing on one day with one round of matches scheduled for Worcestershire's New Road base.

Bob Askey looks on as players are put through their paces during a nets session

Putting bat on ball during a practice session at Stafford Grammar School

Sport

Cricketing maidens looking to bowl over their rivals

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Setback for title hopes of Welborn

JASON Welborn's hopes of a third crack at a British title have been left in jeopardy after his shock setback at Walsall Football Club.

Welborn was surprisingly defeated by journeyman William Warburton at Walsall Football Club on Saturday night, writes James Eley.

Rowley Regis' Welborn was only back in action for the six-rounder because he'd destroyed Michal Voyska in 56 seconds – his first welterweight bout for over three years last month. But the 30-year-old was abject and paid the price, outpointed by one round for his first defeat which wasn't a title fight for 10 years.

He really struggled with the long reach of Warburton. A couple of overhand rights gave Welborn heart, but he took some striking body shots from Warburton in the final round who claimed a well-earned 58-57 victory.

Former British Lightweight champ Walsall's Martin Gethin, had to work hard for his points success. 'The Quiet Man' was in action for the first time in 14 months up at light welter, rolling over the plucky Alexander 'Fonz' Anderson 39-37.

Gethin, 32, controlled most of proceedings but also absorbed some powerful hooks. After an injury-riddled time on the sidelines, he'll be pleased with the rounds.

Another Black Country fighter, Sam Evans, was frustrated despite his whitewash points win over European visitor Teodor Stefanov. Wednesbury's Evans had coach and boxing legend Ricky Hatton in his corner, with 'the Hitman' co-promoting with Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing. The 20-year-old's work was somewhat stifled by the slippery Bulgarian, who was well-beaten. The decision was 60-53, with Stefanov losing a point for excessive holding.

Dogs get their teeth into Hawks for slim victory

South Birmingham Hawks 20
Birmingham Bulldogs 28

IT was success at the third attempt for Birmingham Bulldogs Rugby League FC against new outfit South Birmingham Hawks who were left still seeking their first league points.

A brace of tries – both converted by Danny Bancroft – from speedy debutant wing Chevel Taylor gave Dogs a lead they would never lose. Hawks responded with a converted try; Dogs replied in kind via Norton to restore a 12-point lead. But Hawks came back again with another converted try to make the half-time score 12-18 to Dogs. Hawks cut the gap to just two points with an unconverted try early in the second half. Dogs replied with some good handling that resulted in a try for Adam Walker.

Once again Hawks came back with another unconverted try. Last word to Dogs, though, as McCue rounded of a man-of-the Match performance with a late try which Bancroft goaled to seal a notable win. On Saturday, Dogs have no fixture. Their next fixture is away at Telford on the May 28.

Bomber chases world title glory

BOXING

Boxer Tommy Langford shows off his belts

FIGHTING for a world title is a dream that often remains exactly that for so many boxing hopefuls, but for Albion fan Tommy Langford that dream could soon become a reality.

And for the Baggies Bomber – whose record stands at an impressive 16-0 as he sits second in the world in the WBO rankings at middleweight – he is confident that he can go one step further and clinch the title in a division that is thriving on British soil.

"Given my position in the rankings, I'm getting close to the mandatory position," said 26-year old Langford, the WBO Intercontinental Middleweight champion. "And in the British rankings I'm just behind Billy Joe Saunders and Chris Eubank Jnr so there is a big scope of where I can go really."

Current world champion Saunders is somebody that Birmingham-based Langford – who writes a column for Albion's matchday programme – is very familiar with and full of praise for, having first noticed the impressive southpaw making waves as an amateur.

"He's a very good fighter," he said.

BAGGIES MISS THEIR CHANCE

AND so the curtain falls on another season in the Premier League.

Tony Pulis declared the campaign a success because the Baggies stayed up and were effectively safe at the start of March.

In his opinion – and the opinion of chairman Jeremy Peace – the only thing that's stopped the Baggies from beating their record points tally of 49 has been luck.

It's true, Albion have been unfortunate to pick up just four points over the past nine games, none of which they have won. Three penalties have been saved and countless opportunities wasted.

Yesterday's game against a Liverpool reserve side was no different.

Salomon Rondon hit the inside of the post and had a shot cleared off the line by Danny Ings.

On another day, he could have had a hat-trick.

But the problem for this 'unlucky' Albion team is that the 'other day' never seems to materialise.

If a team is creating hoards of chances then every now and then they should batter an opposition by three or four.

Respite

This Pulis team has never done that. Every single one of their 10 Premier League wins this season has been by a solitary goal and seven of them have finished 1-0.

It's mind-numbing fare that leaves supporters pulling their hair out.

Yesterday was an opportunity, against Jurgen Klopp's second string, to give the fans some respite from that gruelling, grinding football before it starts up again next season.

But once again, this Albion team failed to deliver on the entertainment stakes, doing just enough to get by, but not nearly enough to excite. Salomon Rondon and Jonathan Leko were by far the most threatening players on the pitch.

The Venezuelan notched his 10th goal of the season with a well-taken drilled shot.

Considering how isolated he has been, and how few goals the club has scored, it's a decent return from his first season in England.

But it's the striker's overall hustle and bustle, and his ability to make a nuisance of himself, that makes him the perfect lead striker in an unforgiving Pulis line-up that won't give its strikers a helping hand.

Baggies' Rickie Lambert and Darren Fletcher with a floral tribute to the Hillsborough victims

The debate is over, Rondon is not another Brown Ideye. Leko's dancing feet and piercing dribble that led to the goal proved once again why he's so highly thought of around these parts. But he needs to iron out some faults in his game if he wants to be considered for the first team next season. Too many times he lost possession doing too much, allowing Liverpool to break. If anybody can drill some defensive nous into a player, it's Pulis, so maybe Leko will come back next season a more complete player. The rest of the team played exactly how they have done all season.

Darren Fletcher was tidy, Claudio Yacob was commanding, James McClean ran around a lot, and Craig Gardner was ineffective.

Apart from his untimely slip for Jordon Ibe's goal, Jonny Evans looked assured, Gareth McAuley was solid and Jonas Olsson was shaky.

Ben Foster was dependable and Craig Dawson – who started every single Premier League this season – continues to quietly emerge as a solid and trustworthy right-back. Pulis and Peace have promised changes this summer – and they need to deliver them. Because this season has been a long slog from start to finish, and another one like this may test the fans' patience too far.

Brummies ride high to extend run

BIRMINGHAM battled to a 52-37 win over Mildenhall at West Row to extend their unbeaten run to 10 meetings.

The Surestop Brummies were forced to dig deep in a tight encounter with the Fen Tigers before coming on strong to secure all four National League points.

Team manager Graham Drury was once again full of praise for his young side as they saw their determined efforts rewarded with another well-deserved victory.

No.1 Zach Wajtknecht starred for the visitors, reeling off four successive race wins in his opening four rides before being cruelly denied a maximum in the final race. He was involved in three 5-1s, twice being partnered by the impressive Danyon Hume before joining forces with skipper Tom Perry in heat 13 to seal all four points.

Perry and Hume both impressed to earn paid double figures, whilst Darryl Ritchings and Tom Bacon put in solid showings in the middle order.

Reserve duo Jack Smith and Jack Parkinson-Blackburn also recovered from a nightmare start as they conceded a 5-0 in heat two to bag vital contributions.

The Brummies were back in action at Perry Barr last night (Wednesday) as they hosted Belle Vue.

MILDENHALL 37: Connor Mountain 15+1, Dan Halsey 8, Connor Coles 6, Alfie Bowtell 3, Lee Springthorpe 3, Chris Widman 2+1, Jon Armstrong r/r.

BIRMINGHAM 52: Zach Wajtknecht 13+1, Tom Perry 11+2, Danyon Hume 8+2, Darryl Ritchings 7+2, Tom Bacon 5+1, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 4+1, Jack Smith 4.

The win over Mildenhall followed the Brummies biggest their biggest away league victory in almost four years as they eased past King's Lynn Young Stars 59-31 at the Adrian Flux Arena.

Final countdown with grand final

BIRMINGHAM will take on Kent in the National Trophy Grand Final over two legs next month. The Surestop Brummies booked their place in the final with a clean sweep of results in the group stages as they comprehensively saw off Stoke and Buxton in the group stages.

While Kent still have one group meeting to race, they are assured of their final place also after winning all three of their fixtures and sit comfortably at the top of their respective group.

Birmingham will stage the first leg on Wednesday, June 22 (7.30) with the return fixture being held at Kent's Central Park on Monday, June 27 (6.30).

★★★

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